

السنة الأولى

Reprieve for a killer

"He did not know he was killing" - Aspinall on why Balkash must live, page 3

Dora's Ladies

Why BSRTFVC is heading for the charts, page 16

Camera in court

A real life murder trial makes compelling TV, says Magnus Linklater, page 18

20P

THE TIMES

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Appeal for balance in public criticism

Duty comes first, Major tells MPs

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN Major issued a strong warning to Conservative MPs last night to put their parliamentary duties before any outside interests that they might hold.

In his sternest message to his own party since the cash-for-questions dispute began, the Prime Minister told MPs that while the Commons needed all trades and professions, it should not be a "hiring fair". While it must be right for MPs to have other interests, Parliament must not be "as frankly it sometimes has been" — a way to other jobs, the Prime Minister said in his speech to the Lord Mayor's banquet at Guildhall.

With parliament reassembling tomorrow for the new session, Mr Major took head-on the accusations of sleaze levelled against the Government in recent weeks. He also gave a warning that while the image of business was improving, it could do more, and

he called for responsibility in setting the pay of company executives. He said business, like public service, was held up to greater public scrutiny and British capitalism had to become capitalism with a conscience.

But Mr Major also delivered an appeal for a more balanced and responsible criticism of public figures and institutions. "We must ensure that we do not reach a situation where people are not prepared to serve the public good because the price of doing so is so high," he said. "The freedom to comment, to attack, to condemn, to expose public institutions and public figures is very great. In a free society such as ours, it is very important. But such power should only be used with responsibility."

He insisted that politicians devoted solely to politics would turn the Commons into a "Bore of the Year" show.

"We need the best people to serve in our institutions... I shrink from the notion of the wholly professional politician, whose expertise is honed only to the pursuit of power, preference and political ideology."

He went on: "We would not benefit from a monastic Commons, a chamber of high minds, a conventicle of saints, grateful that they are not like other men and women, 650 lives devoted to jumping over and again over the hurdles and fences of standing and select committee and the chamber. That would not be a real Commons: it would be a sort of Bore of the Year show."

"We politicians are in this world and we must know how this world works. The solicitor, the accountant, the shopkeeper, the trade unionist, the farmer, the stockbroker, the journalist comes equipped with that knowledge. Why on earth hang it up like the boots of a retired sportsman?"

He continued: "Consistent with the priority of parliamentary duties, it must be right for MPs to have other interests, but Parliament should not be, as frankly it sometimes has been, a way to other jobs. The Commons is an assembly, a forum, above all a legislature. It needs all trades, it should not be a hiring fair."

The Prime Minister said that people needed to be reassured that public life was not self-serving. He made plain that the Nolan committee recently set up to look at standards in public life would not just meet immediate questions but would act as an "ethical workshop" called in to do nothing repaired in.

Mr Major called in aid Gladstone's back his assertion that standards are stricter than before. "Can you imagine the current coverage if the Prime Minister of the day disappeared for hours, toured Soho, and returned to Downing Street with a galaxy of ladies and held an impromptu prayer meeting in the front hall of No 10?" he asked. "In Gladstone's days, people knew nothing about such activities. They would now."

John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, said Mr Major's remarks were "depressingly complacent". Mr Major seems to ignore his Government's unpopularity and refuses to address those things which make it so unpopular. "He has nothing to say about any of those things which are creating the greatest anger and concern in Britain — his Government's massive tax increases, unemployment and job insecurity, the scandal of Tory appointments to quangos. From this speech it is all too clear that Mr Major and his Government are now totally out of touch," Mr Prescott said.

Reynolds acts, page 2

Peter Riddell, page 2

The Princess arriving at the Red Cross reception last night. She is to be patron of its anniversary celebrations

Princess returns to public duties

By ANJANA AHUJA

THE Princess of Wales marked her return to public life last night by attending a reception at Lancaster House as the new patron of the British Red Cross Society's 125th anniversary celebrations.

The reception, hosted by Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the overseas development minister, was held to launch

the society's fund-raising campaign. The Princess's new post was approved by the Queen, who is president of the Red Cross.

Angela Rippon will be chairman of the 125 Society, which will encourage corporate and individual sponsors to donate at least £1,000 each to become a member.

The Red Cross blossomed from a letter in *The Times* written in 1870. Colonel Robert

Lloyd Lindsay was deeply moved by the loss of life and suffering borne by soldiers in the Crimean War, and was convinced that a neutral aid organisation could have helped to alleviate it.

He wrote in *The Times* of July 22 1870, at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War, that England should "form a committee, we shall be in communication with those who will take care that the

contributions we send out shall be of the right sort, and shall not be wasted."

He raised £40,000 from the public and distributed it equally to the warring sides, delivering it to their respective kings. *The Times* continued its participation in the early years, with letters of support from the Prince of Wales and Florence Nightingale. It also donated space for the society to acknowledge contributions.

Ministers reject pay rise for health workers

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND JEREMY LAURANCE

A FIERCE confrontation loomed between the Government and health professionals last night as it emerged that ministers have told the pay review bodies that doctors and nurses should not get an automatic pay rise next year.

In a marked hardening of the Cabinet's stance on public sector pay, ministers have decided to try to force the bodies dealing with 600,000 health professionals to adopt a new system of local pay bargaining.

The method chosen, an effective recommendation that they should get a nil pay increase, will infuriate Labour and the health unions. It was put forward ten days ago by Gerald Malone, the health minister. In evidence to the bodies covering doctors and dentists, and nurses and midwives, he told them they should change the way pay levels were determined.

Ministers are underlined by the outrage of nurses in September, when they released details of the Government's plans to reject national pay rises. However, the government is prepared to allow hospital trusts to assess pay across the entire staff rather than base pay rises on individual or team performances.

The British Medical Association said last night that local trusts would be faced with a stark choice between awarding a pay rise and cutting patient care. It added that locally determined pay would mean a "basic crude choice between patient care and a pay rise for staff."

A spokesman said: "If a trust has a surplus it will be able to fund an award — if not, it won't. If a trust hasn't got the money it will either have to cut services or make no award. Many trusts are likely to face those grisly alternatives."

Loyalists asked to join Ulster peace process

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN intends to open exploratory talks with loyalist politicians before the end of the year, John Major announced last night, seeking to give fresh impetus to the Northern Ireland peace process.

As the fresh troubles in the Dublin government cast a shadow over the initiative, with Albert Reynolds's spokesman last night predicting an election, the Prime Minister made plain that preliminary discussions with Sinn Féin will also go ahead soon, in spite of the murder of a postal worker in Newry last week.

Mr Major used the disclosure that he plans to talk to political representatives of gunmen on both sides to step up the demand for the weapons held by both republican and loyalist paramilitaries to be taken out of commission.

Exploratory talks with Sinn Féin were already scheduled after the Government last month adopted a "working assumption" that the IRA ceasefire was permanent. Now the Government has extended the same invitation to loyalists, a month after they

also called a halt to sectarian violence. Invitations are to be sent to Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, and Hugh Smyth, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party and also Lord Mayor of Belfast, for preliminary talks.

Departing from tradition, Mr Major concentrated much of his speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet at Guildhall on domestic rather than foreign affairs. With Mr Reynolds preparing to announce measures in the hope of averting a split in Dublin's coalition, Mr Major said the opportunity for peace had begun to turn into reality. The purpose of the talks with Sinn Féin and the loyalists was to draw them into democratic politics and out of violence. But they must accept democratic practice. Illegal weapons and explosives must be taken out of commission, there must be an end to intimidation and punishment beatings, and racketeering and criminality must end.

Mr Major did not mention the difficulties facing Mr Reynolds, though there are fears in London that change in the Irish government could slow the peace effort. Last night's announcement was meant to show that London will proceed at its own pace.

Mr Major said the Newry murder showed what risks still abound. "Revulsion and anger at this murder reinforces the need to deal with the weapons held by both republicans and loyalist paramilitaries," he said.

Reynolds acts, page 2

Peter Riddell, page 2

Israel 'has 200 atomic weapons'

By MICHAEL BRYNIN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ISRAEL has 200 nuclear weapons, according to a five-year accumulation of intelligence from French and Russian spy satellites.

However, the siting of key nuclear installations and weapons in the centre of the country appears to indicate that the Jewish state would use the ultimate weapon only in the last resort.

These are the conclusions of an exposé of Israel's highly secret nuclear weapons programme, published in *Jane's Intelligence Review*. Harold Hough, the America-based author of books and articles on military strategy and satellite surveillance, says that photographs have made it possible to follow the trail from the nuclear reactor to final product.

Details revealed, page 13

Grobelaar faces FA charge of disrepute

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

BRUCE Grobelaar, the Southampton and former Liverpool goalkeeper accused of attempting to fix the results of Premier League matches, was charged by the Football Association last night with bringing the game into disrepute.

However, the FA declined to suspend Grobelaar and Laurie McNamery, the Southampton director of football, immediately reiterated the club's support for the player and said he was expected to play against Arsenal this Saturday.

Grobelaar, who has 14 days to answer the charges before an FA disciplinary commission, heard the news in Zimbabwe where he played in an international against Zaire on Sunday.

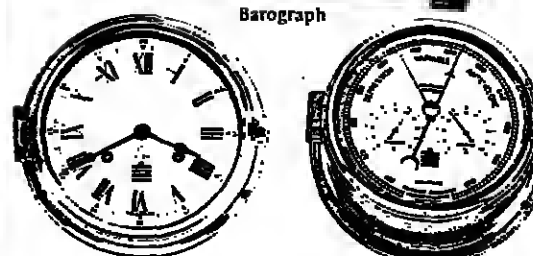
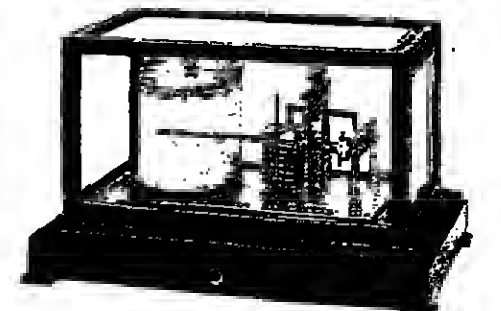
The FA formally charged him not only with "conduct which is improper or which is liable to bring the game into disrepute" but also with "ac-

ceptance of consideration with a view to influencing the result of a match."

The FA, which has spent five days examining seven hours of videos and tapes provided by *The Sun*, emphasised that Grobelaar was innocent until he had been proved guilty.

Grobelaar last night demanded that he be shown the evidence against him held by the FA. He said he would refute all the allegations. In a statement from Harare he added that newspaper reports about his private life which alleged he had had affairs with two young women had placed "an enormous strain" on his marriage. David Hewitt, one of Grobelaar's legal representatives, said: "Preparation of Mr Grobelaar's case will commence immediately. The documents were requested immediately after they were passed to the FA by *The Sun*."

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Diary, page 18

INDEX	
Art...	31-33
Births, marriages...	20
Deaths...	9
Bridge...	9, 44
Chess...	20
Court and Social...	22
Crossword...	18
Diary...	35, 37
Law...	38
Law Report...	19
Leading articles...	19
Letters...	21
Obituaries...	41
Racing...	39-42, 44
Short Crossword...	44
Times Two Crossword...	22
Weather...	30
Your Own Business...	30
TV & Radio...	42-43

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Major expects too much of 'ethical workshop'

John Major has the right instincts in the "sleaze" debate. His view of what MPs should be allowed to do, as set out in his speech to the annual Lord Mayor's Banquet, is sensible. But Mr Major is cautious about taking action and is willing to shift responsibility to Lord Nolan's inquiry. He admitted last night the "need to reassure people that public life is not self-serving". His speech reflects the swing away from the idea of the wholly professional, career politician, "whose expertise is honed only to the pursuit of power, preference and political ideology" (as I documented in my

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

book *Honest Opportunism: The Rise of the Career Politician*. He has only to look around the Cabinet table to see plenty of examples.

Mr Major does not believe in "a monastic Commons, a chamber of high minds, a conventicle of saints". With David Evans and Tony Banks to provide vulgar relief, there is little danger of that. As Mr Major argues, politicians must "know how the world works". There is a danger of swinging too far in the puritanical direction, of denigrating

all MPs' motives and subjecting them to unreasonable scrutiny so that people are not prepared to come forward to serve. The editors of the tabloids, please note.

Mr Major argues that "consistent with the priority of Parliamentary duties, it must be right for MPs to have other interests, but Parliament should not be as it sometimes has been, a way to other jobs. The Commons is an assembly, a forum, above all, a legislature. It needs all trades, but it should not be a hiring fair."

But how do you draw the line? Several Tory MPs, to whom I have spoken recently,

agree that the rules need to be tightened. But they are unsure how to produce enforceable new guidelines. MPs could be barred from performing essentially parliamentary functions, such as tabling questions or arranging meetings with ministers, for which they receive extra money as part of a consultancy. The local government rule that prevents members speaking or voting on issues where they have a financial interest could apply. But would that bar MPs from having links as advisers not just to commercial bodies but also to pressure groups or charities?

The Nolan committee can obviously help. But its creation is an admission of the limits of parliamentary self-regulation. The privileges and members' interests committees of the Commons will still deal with specific allegations of abuse. In the past, changes in rules affecting MPs have been proposed by such committees. But Mr Major is now looking outside. To Nolan, to suggest new rules. It will be hard for Parliament to ignore the committee's advice.

Mr Major envisages the committee as a permanent check and balance on the behaviour of public officials. Yet he is expecting it to do too much, as shown by his comment about the inquiry acting as "a running authority of reference, almost an ethical workshop called in to do running repairs". The Nolan committee cannot be a substitute for Government action. At the root of the argument is public unease about one party being in office for so long. If after its report next spring, Mr Major came forward with his own tough proposals — not just on MPs' interests but also on appointments to public bodies — he could provide the reassurance he recognises is necessary and regain the initiative for the Government.

PETER RIDDELL

Upheaval will not affect the peace process, says Mayhew

Irish election looms as coalition flounders

By NICHOLAS WATT AND PHILIP WEBSTER

PROSPECTS of a general election in Ireland moved closer last night as Albert Reynolds prepared to unveil a package of measures in a last-ditch attempt to save his Government from collapse after Labour, his junior coalition partner, threatened to withdraw over a senior legal appointment.

The Taoiseach will propose today a new high-level ministerial commission to vet controversial issues and appointments before they reach the Cabinet. However, senior sources in Flanna Fail said last night that they saw little chance of satisfying Dick Spring, the Labour leader and Deputy Prime Minister, in today's debate.

A spokesman for Mr Reynolds said: "The consensus view among the ministers, after meeting today, is that a general election now seems likely."

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, appealed to the two parties to continue to work towards a settlement. "I appeal to the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste [Mr Spring] to resolve their political differences as speedily as possible to avoid disrupting the peace process."

John Major was also watching developments anxiously. A key factor in peace process has been the close working relationship between Mr Major and Albert Reynolds, not least because they understand the countervailing pressures on each other. However, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the North-

ern Ireland Secretary, said that a change of government would not affect the peace process.

Mr Spring was given a mandate by his Parliamentary party on Sunday to decide whether to withdraw from Government if he was dissatisfied with the Taoiseach's performance. Labour ministers walked out of Friday's Cabinet meeting after Mr Reynolds overrode their objections and nominated Harry Whelehan, the Attorney General, as President of the High Court. Mr Spring is strongly opposed to Mr Whelehan because he is regarded as too conservative on social issues and because his department delayed dealing with an extradition warrant from the RUC for a priest, Brendan Smyth, who had committed paedophile offences.

Bertie Ahern, the Flanna Fail Finance Minister, said yesterday that Mr Reynolds's "peace package" would aim to resolve issues before they reach Cabinet. He said that the Father Smyth paedophile case had been "horrendous", but defended Mr Whelehan's handling of the case when he was Attorney General.

In an attempt to pacify the Labour party, however, Mr Ahern said: "There are major flaws in the way the system within the Attorney General's office works."

Leading article, page 19



Father Brendan Smyth and Harry Whelehan, former Attorney General

Row over extradition of priest lies behind split

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A ROMAN Catholic priest who is serving a four-year prison sentence in Northern Ireland for paedophile offences could unwittingly be responsible for the collapse of the Irish government.

Dick Spring, the Deputy Prime Minister and Labour leader, has threatened to withdraw from the coalition government because there was a seven-month delay in dealing with the extradition warrants from the RUC for the priest, Father Brendan Smyth.

Labour ministers are unhappy with the explanation given by Harry Whelehan, who was promoted last Friday

from his post as Attorney General to President of the High Court. Mr Spring walked out of the Cabinet on Friday when Mr Reynolds, the Prime Minister and leader of Flanna Fail, overrode his objections and appointed Mr Whelehan to the High Court.

At a press conference on Sunday Mr Spring said that the delay had left a child abuser at large. Mr Spring, who will decide whether to remain in government after Mr Reynolds defends his handling of the Whelehan appointment in the Dail today, said: "Government owes no higher duty to its people than

to protect their children... We must, and will do that duty. Will others?"

Labour ministers were furious after Mr Whelehan claimed in his defence that Fr Smyth was unlikely to reoffend.

Fr Smyth, a Norbertine Order priest, returned voluntarily to Northern Ireland last June of sexual offences against young children. He is serving his sentence at Magilligan jail in Co Londonderry. There are also claims that he assaulted children in the Irish Republic while he served as chaplain at the Tralee General Hospital.

Tory MPs hail end of injury payments

By PHILIP WEBSTER

TORY rightwingers welcomed signs yesterday that the Government might scrap the national compensation scheme for people injured at work.

Trade unions and Opposition parties said the move, which would be announced in this month's Budget if it goes ahead, would cause hardship. They accused John Major of trying to appease the right.

As the Prime Minister met his business managers to consider how to handle the expected rebellion over payments to the European Union, right-wing MPs backed the idea of abolishing the Industrial Injuries Scheme. They saw it as the sort of radical measure needed to show that the Government was not running out of steam. The scheme currently costs £600 million and is one of the last remaining universal welfare provisions.

Labour believes the Cabinet Right is determined to continue shifting responsibility for social provision from the State to companies and workers. Keith Bradley, a Labour social security spokesman, said: "The Health and Safety at Work Act will be undermined and the absolute assurance that people will be insured against accidents at work will become extremely doubtful."

"People injured at work may find they are not employable, that whatever scheme is put in place does not cover their injury, or that the amount of compensation is so low they will find themselves in severe hardship."

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "This scheme has been paid for by employees and employers through National Insurance. The only alternative would be to fight things out in the courts. It would cost millions of pounds and it would worsen relationships in the workplace."

Court frees family of bomb-plot IRA man

Three relatives of an IRA terrorist accused of withholding information on him were freed by the Old Bailey yesterday after the prosecution dropped the charges. Sean McNulty was jailed for 25 years in August for plotting to bomb oil and gas terminals. His mother, brother and uncle were released after the court was told that after 16 months there was no longer a realistic chance of conviction against two of the three.

McNulty's mother, Dorothy, 46, a nurse; his sister, Annette Walker, 27; and his uncle Niall McNulty, 44, a tunneller, all from North Shields, had all denied withholding information in connection with acts of terrorism. Annette Walker had also denied possession of explosives and this charge was also dropped. McNulty's father, Bernard, was also charged with withholding information, but has since died from a heart condition. This charge was also dropped.

Store stabbing charge

A teenager appeared in court yesterday accused of murdering Duncan Clarke, 34, who was stabbed during a confrontation with a suspected shoplifter in Cardiff city centre. Karl Hughes, 19, unemployed, from Penarth, Mid Glamorgan, was remanded in custody for a week by Cardiff magistrates. Mr Clarke died in hospital hours after the stabbing in a Littlewoods store last Thursday.

Drink-driver's 500 miles

A woman driver who had been drinking rum in Scotland was five times over the drink-drive limit when she was tested after hitting a bollard in Plymouth, 500 miles away. Joanne Brady, 36, who had driven from her father's home near Glasgow to catch a ferry to Spain, where she lives at Marbella, admitted before Plymouth magistrates to driving with excess alcohol. Bail was refused and she was remanded in custody for reports.

Sex attacker's parole win

Michael Fox, 31, a former psychiatric nurse serving nine concurrent life sentences for sex attacks on mentally handicapped women, won a reduction yesterday, on appeal, from 12 to 10 years as the minimum time he must serve before becoming eligible for parole. Fox, a father of three, of Charmminster, Dorset, was sentenced in February this year for a string of sex attacks from 1988 to 1991.

Convictions upheld

Dwight Harris, 33, a Rastafarian, and his wife Beverley, 35, who refused treatment for their daughter, who died in a diabetic coma, lost their appeal against conviction for manslaughter. The Appeal Court also upheld Harris's 2½-year prison sentence and his wife's 18-month suspended sentence. Harris deliberately ignored doctors and his daughter Nahkira, 9, died as a result, Lord Justice Kennedy said.

Overdose doctor guilty

A doctor who gave a nine-year-old boy a huge overdose of drugs, including heroin, for a circumcision operation — after which the child died — was found guilty of serious professional misconduct yesterday. The General Medical Council ordered Dr Mahbubul Alam, of Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, to be suspended from the medical register for eight months.

Pet dog mauls baby

A baby boy is recovering from head and face wounds after being mauled by his family's dog, described as a crossbred Canadian timber wolf. Jaye Connick, aged 22 months, received 14 stitches. Lynn Connick, 34, of Penarth, Gwynedd, said the dog was trying to catch a chocolate thrown by another child when her son got in its way. Police have returned the dog to the family pending a decision on its future.

Bike shop traps thieves

Police posing as bicycle dealers have recovered 238 cycles worth £35,000 and made 49 arrests. York police said yesterday. The detectives, who opened a shop in June offering cash for bicycles, recorded customers on video and audio tape. Operation Biker was launched after 2,144 thefts of bikes last year in York. Three juveniles have been remanded on bail to a youth court. Others will appear in court later.

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Animal that killed will be denied human contact for 'letting his species down'

Dead keeper said tiger should not be put down if it ever attacked him

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE tiger that killed its keeper will be allowed to live because of a pact between its victim and the millionaire zoo keeper, John Aspinall. When Trevor Smith began going alone into enclosures containing big cats, the 31-year-old former postman agreed that if he should misjudge a situation and die, the animal should be spared.

Mr Aspinall said yesterday that Balkash, the 500lb Siberian male tiger, would be punished for "letting his species down" by being denied further visits inside its enclosure by humans. He added that he was "urgently reviewing his pioneering philosophy of allowing keepers into the enclosures of dangerous animals to break the 'man-made gap' between humans and other creatures. Such contact has been suspended but the keepers at Howlets Wild Animal Park near Canterbury, Kent, said that they would consider resigning if the ban were made permanent.

The park, where two keepers were killed by the same tigress in 1980, is unlikely to be closed. Officials of Canterbury City Council, who began an inspection yesterday, said the zoo's five-year licence, due for renewal next year, dealt mainly with animal welfare and the size of cages rather than the safety of staff. But the council will consider using its health and safety powers to prosecute the zoo for failing to protect an employee, resulting in a potential jail sentence and unlimited fines.

Balkash, which has never killed before, was probably playing with Mr Smith and



Aspinall defended his tiger breeding record

misjudged the man's strength. Mr Aspinall said: "I don't think he knew he was killing. It's like a child smashing a toy and then you say 'You mustn't smash that toy because it won't work any more.' Tigers have a respect for us. They see us all as honorary tigers. They see us all as having the same strength. Sometimes they find out that we are nothing in one bite."

He appeared deeply shocked that his lifetime's work of building bonds of trust and affection between man and the higher mammals appeared to be in ruins. He had explained away the deaths 14 years ago because

the tigress had been poorly treated by humans in Canada and hated people.

Balkash and its partner Zamsan had been brought up since cubs by Mr Smith and his senior keeper Nick Marx, 43, so no such excuse was available. "This is an animal born here and has only known love and affection. We never thought for a moment that he would ever do anything unpleasant. He always appeared to be a very good boy, very reliable and friendly and dependable," he said.

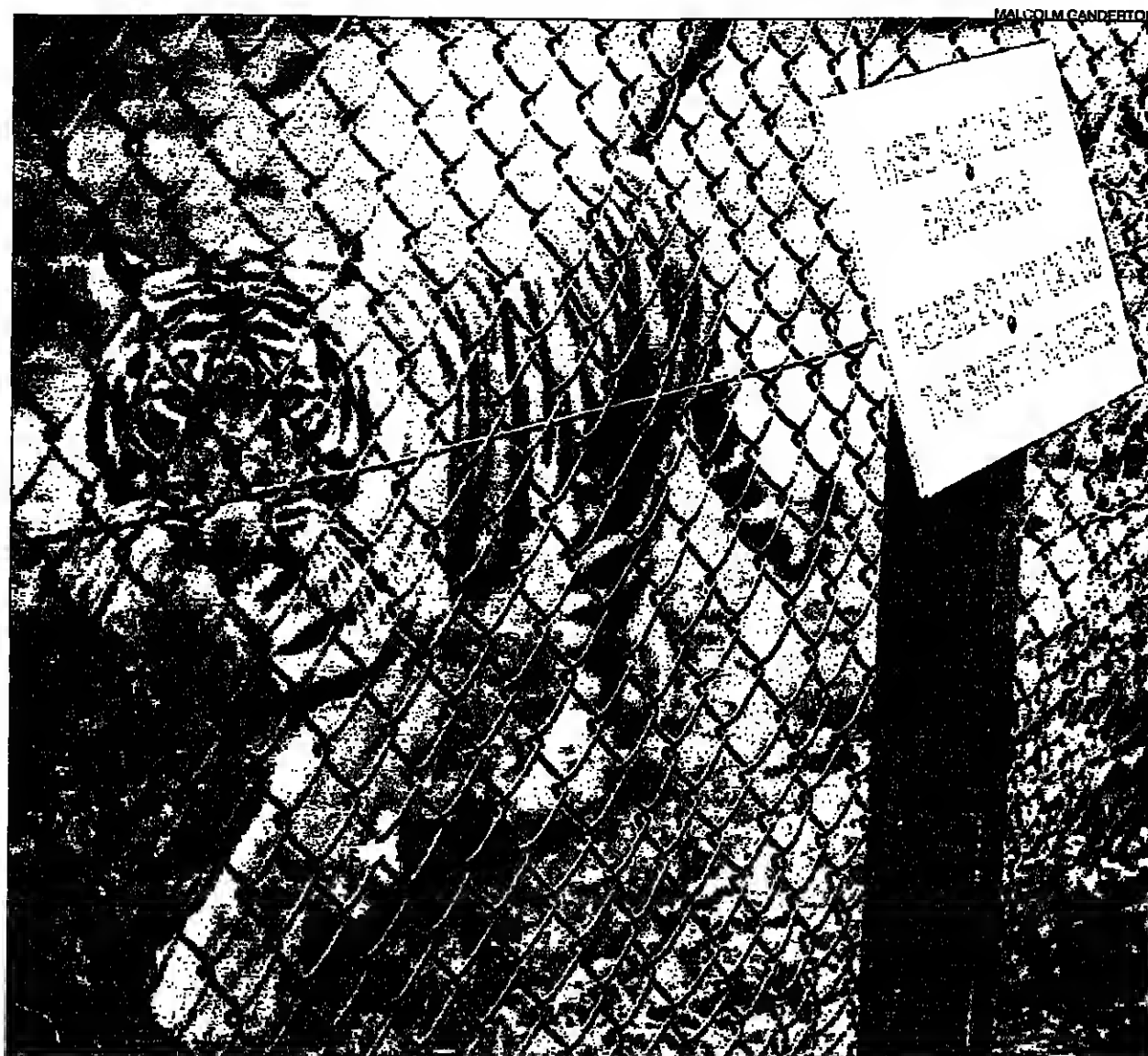
He refused to close Howlets, which opened in the 1950s, and its sister park, Port Lympne, also in Kent, which specialise in breeding endangered species to be returned to the wild.

The Siberian tiger, the world's biggest cat, which usually preys on wild boar, has been reduced to fewer than 70 in the wild, but around 1,000 in captivity.

"We have the best tiger breeders in the world," Mr Aspinall said. "We have bred more tigers than anybody else in the world. We do give a very large space to species other than humans. There are a million humans in the world for every tiger. There is no other wildlife park in Britain or zoo that has tried to bridge the man-made gap between ourselves and other high mammals."

"I have played 5,000 times with tigers in my life. I have had five male tigers on top of me. Nobody has ever done this before. We don't circus-train any animals."

"It's not a fear-reward relationship whereby they get punished if they don't do what we want them to do. This is a



Keepers at Howlets have said they would resign if banned from entering the enclosures of Siberian tigers

mutual transfer of trust and affection."

Mr Aspinall continued: "I have spoken to Mrs Smith's widow, Debbie. She was in tears. I have spoken to the parents as well. They haven't blamed the establishment. She knew her husband and they knew their son. And I'm sure they would confirm that he lived for his work here."

He said Mr Smith had always wanted to work with tigers even though he knew the dangers. "Like firemen or policemen in dangerous parts and no-go areas, they know the risks. They want to be a fireman or a policeman. He wanted to be a tiger keeper.

That was his greatest ambition."

He added: "It works in most cases but we have pioneered this work. Nobody else has ever tried it. Two hundred and ninety-eight people have been killed climbing the Matterhorn. It is a purely voluntary adoption of risk by a keeper. Men are funny. They like to have that challenge."

Receptionists at the wildlife park spent yesterday reassuring telephone callers worried that Balkash was to be destroyed. Mr Marx, who tried to rescue Mr Smith armed only with a spade, said yesterday he was no hero and had only been doing his job. Two

visitors to the park on Sunday afternoon saw the tiger put its paws on Mr Smith's back after he had patted it while cleaning the grassy enclosure.

The keeper could hear the animal's weight only for a few moments and went down. At this point, a man underneath a tiger should talk to it to offer reassurance. If the man struggles, the tiger can attack. Mr Marx speculated that Mr Smith possibly made the fatal mistake of struggling.

The surviving keeper said he heard Mr Smith shout and ran to his aid. He entered the enclosure to find Balkash lying on Mr Smith and Zamsan standing beside. Mr Marx

warded them off, then felt Mr Smith's pulse but it seemed dead.

He then chased the animals to another enclosure, cursing in anger, to allow emergency services inside. Mr Marx later broke the news of Mr Smith's death to his wife.

Mr Marx said he doubted whether he would want to continue as a keeper if he was banned from entering the enclosures. He said he had spoken to Balkash through the 15ft-high wire mesh fence yesterday. "There's no animosity towards me with what I have done to him," he said. "He talks to me. He is pleased to see me. There's no grudges."

Retired officer sues over sex ring stories

A LIBEL jury was asked yesterday to award "massive" compensation to a retired senior police officer over allegations that he sexually abused boys at a children's home and was involved in lending them out to convicted paedophiles.

Former Superintendent Gordon Anglesea's dreams of a happy retirement were "shattered by the filthiest lies imaginable", his counsel, Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, told the High Court. Press articles and a television programme about child abuse in North Wales during the late 1970s and early 1980s accused him of bugging small boys, sexually assaulting them and, as a senior serving officer, abusing his power in that rank.

The accusations were like a "dagger in the heart" — a poison that "polluted and ruined" the lives of Mr Anglesea and his family. Jurors were shown a photograph of Mr Anglesea with his daughter Elizabeth — the "apple of his eye" — who died of a heart defect before her fifth birthday. "This is the man they say is a pervert," Lord Williams said.

Mr Anglesea, 57, of Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, is claiming damages against *Independent on Sunday*, *The Observer* and *Private Eye*, all represented by George Carman, QC, and against HTV, represented by John Mathew, QC. They all deny libel and claim that Mr Anglesea was guilty of abuse.

Lord Williams told Mr Justice Drake and the jury of eight men and four women that Mr Anglesea served 34 years with the police in North Wales before retiring in April 1991. "He was not driven from the force by allegations of bugging small boys. This is a fact that will not go away," Lord Williams said.

Mr Anglesea was in charge of a Home Office attendance centre at Wrexham for boys between 10 and 17 who were "going the wrong way". He made occasional visits to Bryn Estyn children's home in Wrexham to caution boys who had ended up at the centre.

"He did not go there to assault boys," Lord Williams said. "He has a normal, strong, healthy sex drive which he expressed and was fulfilled in his marriage." When he saw his name in the *Independent on Sunday* in December 1991, he was appalled. His wife read the report and ran crying from the house. Mr Anglesea told his Rotary club, church and fellow Freemasons that the story was not true.

Lord Williams said three articles in *The Observer* in September 1992 referred to a retired police chief being a prime suspect in the child abuse scandal. It quoted one of the victims as saying the officer and another suspect had protected themselves through the "police masonic network".

At the same time, HTV broadcast a *Wales This Week* programme naming Mr Anglesea as a child abuser. It stood by its story, even though a police inquiry had resulted in a decision by the Crown Prosecution Service not to bring charges against him and other officers.

Lord Williams asked the jury to award Mr Anglesea "massive" compensation for damage to his reputation, which had been "blown out of the water". "Until you find otherwise he is the scum of the earth," Lord Williams told the jury.

The hearing is expected to last several weeks.

McAlpine pool broke planning law, judge rules

By JOHN YOUNG

DAVID McAlpine, younger brother of the former Conservative treasurer Lord McAlpine of West Green, lost a High Court challenge yesterday to stop his swimming pool and tennis court being removed from the grounds of his Oxfordshire home.

Mr McAlpine, a director of the family construction firm, was ordered to remove the pool and tennis court from Fawley House, near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

In the High Court Judge Macleod, QC, dismissed Mr McAlpine's appeal against an enforcement order issued in October 1992. Mr McAlpine was ordered to pay costs and refused leave to go to the Court of Appeal.

The court was told that he had claimed that the pool and tennis court were within the "curtilage" of his home, which is grade II listed, and consequently did not need planning permission. They were built on an open grassed area beyond a formal garden at the rear of the house.

The land had been used by the owners for recreation as part of the garden. But an Environment Department inspector found that the site did

not lie within the curtilage of the house.

The judge said he could find no law in the inspector's decision, adding that the word "curtilage" was not open to "easy and precise" definition. The inspector's decision was within the guidelines established by case law, and Mr McAlpine's criticisms were over-analytical, the judge said.

Norman Hudson, of the Historic Houses Association, said last night that the definition of curtilage was a long-running issue. English Heritage had argued for a clearer definition, but at present the definition depended largely on case law.

A general development order granted to a local authority under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 was assumed to permit developments, such as swimming pools, which were incidental to the ownership and enjoyment of an owner's property. But under the same Act the authority could issue an Article 4 directive cancelling any such assumption.

Mr McAlpine, the youngest son of the late Lord McAlpine of Moffat, did not attend yesterday's hearing.

Monks dispute earthly effect of a wee Buckie

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Benedictine monks of Buckfast Abbey in Devon hit back yesterday at claims that their 70-year-old recipe for Buckfast Tonic Wine was leading to teenage alcoholism in Central Scotland.

The monks said after a meeting with Helen Liddell, MP for Monklands East, who has been campaigning to reduce sales of the wine in Lanarkshire, where it is the favourite tipple of disaffected local youth, that she knew little about their product.

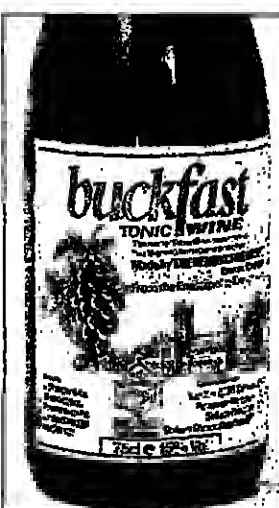
Ms Liddell had asked them to raise the price of their wine and to give part of the profits from the monastery's successful business to help youngsters fighting alcohol abuse in Lanarkshire. She has threatened to take her campaign to the Pope if the monks do not "take a more responsible attitude towards" sales of the fortified wine.

Ms Liddell says 80 per cent of sales made by the abbey, which has turnover of £10 million a year, are in Lanarkshire, where children as young as 12 can be seen taking the extra-strength drink. A statement put out by

the monastery on behalf of the abbot, the Right Rev David Charlesworth, said that Buckfast was simply "a drop in the ocean" compared with the alcohol consumed in Scotland and that even if it was withdrawn from the market its drinkers would find something else to drink. The monks believe Buckfast has been unfairly blamed because of its background, that their attitude is responsible and that the drink is not advertised.

The wine is marketed as a "tonic" wine but the yellow label, which depicts the 19th-century monastery, carries a disclaimer stating: "The name 'Tonic Wine' does not imply health giving or medicinal properties."

The wine is imported from another abbey in France and is fortified with honey and other ingredients by the monks. Legend has it that the recipe, used since the 1920s, is known by only the abbot and one other monk. Buckfast is sold in screw-top 75cl glass bottles for £4 to £6 in central Scotland. The alcohol content is 15 per cent and the wine tastes sweet, heavy



A monastic bottle of Buckfast Tonic Wine

and sherry-like. The image of a typical Buckfast customer could not be farther away from that of the monks in their pastoral, monastic setting. Down-and-outs and delinquents in Central drink "Buckie" because it gives them a kick, especially when drunk on top of several cans of strong lager.

In Airdrie and Coatbridge the wine is also known as "the bottle of 30 days". According to one local, the teenagers "drink a bottle of Buckie, smash a video shop window, get nicked and do 30 days in Barlinnie".

Ms Liddell said after her meeting: "We had a very frank discussion. We agreed on some aspects and disagreed on others."

Leading article, page 19

Hospital 'error' left patient with total paralysis

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HOSPITAL mistake left a man's mind locked inside his immobile body, the High Court was told yesterday.

Cyril Joyce, from Cheam, Surrey, is one of about six people in this country known to be suffering from "Locked-In Syndrome", his counsel, Robin De Wilde, QC, said. Mr Joyce, 56, a former butcher, has total mental awareness but cannot speak or move and can only communicate through his eye movements.

He can use a machine operated by eyelid flicker and has even written poetry. Mr De Wilde said. He communicates with his wife by signalling letters of the alphabet. He has been living at the Putney Royal Hospital and Home, southwest London for six years and now wants to go home, Mr De Wilde said.

The court was told that in March 1987 Mr Joyce had gone into St George's Hospital, Tooting, for an investigation into his heart disease. Mr De Wilde said a "relatively junior and inexperienced" registrar had performed a brachial catheterisation.

This involved placing a catheter into an artery in Mr Joyce's right fore-

arm so that a contrast medium could be pumped into his bloodstream. Mr De Wilde alleged that the doctor had negligently sutured the wound so that the blood flow through the brachial artery was cut off.

The operation carried known risks but, Mr De Wilde said, it should not have happened. "It should have been avoided by skill and care."

After the operation, Mr Joyce's right hand was cold and pale and his pulse was weak, but he was sent home the same day. "He was discharged from the hospital too soon, without proper care or investigation," Mr De Wilde said, adding that Mr Joyce had not been told to return immediately to hospital if he experienced discomfort.

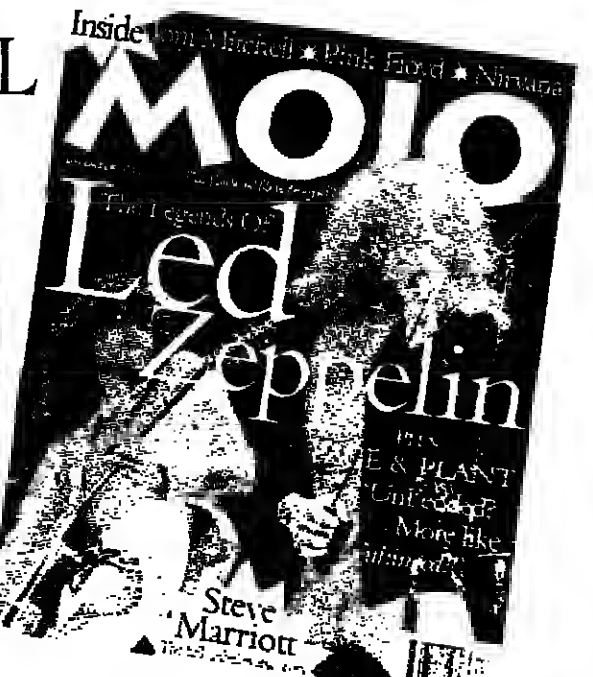
With Mr Joyce in acute pain, his wife had telephoned the GP who said he should "carry on taking the tablets". Despite several further operations, the blood flow to his brain was interrupted. Since June 1987 he had been a victim of Locked-In Syndrome. Mr De Wilde said. Mr Joyce is claiming damages from Wandsworth Health Authority, who deny blame. The hearing continues.

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'Minister denies aid link to arms

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALLEGATIONS of an arms-for-aid deal with Indonesia were denied yesterday by Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, minister for overseas aid. Her comments followed confirmation that the Government is helping to finance a power station and road in Indonesia with concessional loans.

Britain is also in the running for potentially huge defence contracts involving the sale of trainer aircraft, missiles and light tanks which could be worth £2-£5 billion.

In a statement, Lady Chalker said there was a strong economic and social case for a substantial aid programme to Indonesia. "Our programme is targeted on human resource development, the environment, good government and transportation," she said.

"I can specifically confirm that at no stage has there been any linkage between any element in our aid programme to Indonesia and the sale of arms," Lady Chalker said.

However, George Foulkes, Labour's overseas development spokesman, is demanding that the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee reopen its inquiry into the Malaysian Bagan dam affair and extend its scope. Yesterday it emerged that Britain is planning a military tour of Far Eastern countries next year to promote sales of naval equipment.

Tale of sex videos, arms deals and royal liaisons fails to impress judge

Lover cleared of blackmail plot threatens to sue

By CATHERINE MILTON and MICHAEL EVANS

AN IRANIAN millionaire who accused her former lover of blackmail may be sued by him after his acquittal at the Old Bailey yesterday.

The woman, referred to only as Mrs S throughout the trial, had accused Abdulmajed Bembehani, a property developer, of blackmailing her for £2 million in return for not publishing a number of video tapes he had made of their sessions together. The trial was also told of plots to sell fighter planes to Iraq and allegations of a secret love contract with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The trial collapsed yesterday after Judge Grisson directed the jury to find Mr Bembehani not guilty. The judge said that the idea to demand money for the tapes came not from Mr Bembehani but from a friend of Mrs S.

Mr Bembehani, 61, might have been guilty "under Section One of the Dirty Dogs Act" for threatening to show the sex tapes to other people, but he was not guilty of blackmailing her, the judge said. It was "simply not fair" that "someone should be charged with a crime by people who incited him to commit it, and there was no

public interest in pursuing the case.

Mr Bembehani, who claimed he took the videos of himself and Mrs S making love "for fun", said: "I am a very rich businessman, I have been in custody for four months, I have suffered a lot. It has cost me a lot of money, £5 million, £6 million, plus £500,000 in legal fees. I am going to sue Mrs S for what I have lost."

Asked how he felt about his former lover, he said: "I feel sorry for her. She played tricks and now she has put herself in the trap. I was very disappointed when she made these allegations."

As she left court, Mrs S, who lives in London, said: "I was a victim. I just put myself in the hands of justice and I still remain a victim. Where is the justice for me?"

During the trial, Mrs S had been obliged under questioning to reveal parts of her life that hinted of a secret world in which she is supposed to have acted as an intermediary in a covert sale of F15 fighter aircraft from Chile to Iraq. She admitted in court that she had faced two previous blackmail attempts by other people. While she was making allega-

tions that Mr Bembehani was blackmailing her, a trusted retainer was threatening to publish a book detailing her alleged involvement with King Fahd unless she paid him £2 million.

She pleaded with the judge not to make her disclose the nature of her relationship with the King. She said: "My Lord, I got into a contract. I can't talk about my private life. Please, I have asked defence counsel before. I can't breach my contract."

Her alleged involvement in arms deals, also apparently detailed in the book, added a strange twist to the trial. Mrs S said she thought the F15 deal involved agricultural equipment. The reference in court was met with bewilderment in the arms business. Neither Chile nor Iraq has American-built F15s and security sources said they were unaware of any woman playing a leading role in international arms deals. "They all tend to be men," one source said.

During the trial, Mrs S accused her ex-lover of threatening to send the video tapes to King Fahd, to her husband and to others, unless she paid him £2 million. Their paths had crossed in the early



Abdulmajed Bembehani embracing a friend after his acquittal yesterday. The judge said he might have been a "dirty dog", but was not a blackmailer.

1980s when she was living in Spain and attempting to buy a block of flats in France in which Mr Bembehani had a penthouse. The relationship developed into a close business partnership.

On business trips to the Middle East and elsewhere he liked to register them as man and wife at the hotels where they stayed. They discussed

marriage and a life together in Dubai. Mrs S, however, regarded marriage as unnecessary. She called it a joke and said she had no need to sign a piece of paper.

Mrs S rejected a claim by defence counsel that she had made up a fantasy lover, Shaikh Muhammad, to make Mr Bembehani jealous and

that she had supported the fantasy with a photograph made to appear as if it had been cut from a magazine in Dubai.

She also denied telling Mr Bembehani that the shaikh had offered £1 million to have sex with her. She said: "Do you think any fool would give £1 million pounds to go to bed with me?"

Taxman hits bank managers' car perk

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 5,000 bank managers are being sent tax bills averaging £600 to pay for the benefit of having at least two new company cars a year. The managers work for the National Westminster, which signed a widely publicised agreement with Ford for the supply of about 7,000 new cars. The bank is understood to be buying the cars, which cost the general public between £9,000 and £19,000, at a discount of 30 per cent. But the new Escorts and Mondeo are kept only a few weeks by the managers before they are sold at a profit as low-mileage, second-hand cars.

Alan Ainsworth, chief negotiator for the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, said yesterday: "Although the managers obviously want a company car, they do not want to change them all the time. We uncovered a tax penalty which cannot be fair when it is imposed on people who have no choice in their company car arrangements."

Because the bank retains cars for sale after between six and 12 weeks, managers have no time to run up business mileage that would take them over the Government's lowest tax threshold of 2,500 miles and so avoid as "perk users" by the Revenue.

A NatWest spokesman declined to comment.

Bomb threat to animal ferry firm

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A FERRY company has postponed plans to export British livestock after receiving a bomb threat presumed to have come from animal rights activists. Ferrylink Freight Services had intended to start an immediate daily service carrying livestock on one of its two roll-on, roll-off vessels from Sheerness in Kent to the Dutch port of Vlissingen.

Bill Moses, the company's managing director, said yesterday: "Demand for this trade is strong, but due to other considerations we are not currently taking any bookings for the 12 slots allocated to livestock vehicles on the morning sailing out of Sheerness. However, we will continue to review the situation."

The service would have been the first regular substitute for the cross-Channel routes closed to livestock exports by the refusal of the main ferry operators to carry

animals for slaughter or fattening abroad. Farmers are particularly keen to restart the trade in calves, which, unlike lambs, cannot be exported as carcasses. The Ferrylink Schelde had a trial run on November 9 with a Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeon on board but was forced to wait for six and a half hours outside Vlissingen harbour because of doubts about the vessel's security.

A caller rang the company after the boat set sail claiming that a bomb was on board. A search by the crew found nothing but the Dutch port authorities insisted on satisfying themselves that the vessel was safe before allowing it into harbour. Kent Police said: "There was little we could do to trace the caller but we are satisfied that the port authorities are capable of preventing devices being smuggled aboard."

Appeal by suspended lawyer

By FRANCES GIBB

THE senior crown prosecutor suspended two weeks ago after he wrote an article in *The Times* has written to Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney General, and the head of the Civil Service asking them to institute disciplinary proceedings or reinstate him.

Neil Addison, a senior lawyer with the Crown Prosecution Service, said: "I think I have a right to be told exactly what I am accused of and what is being done about it." In the letters to Sir Nicholas and Sir Robin Butler, he points out that since his suspension he has heard nothing of his fate.

Mr Addison, 41, a member of the Bar Council, was suspended after he refused to withdraw the article. Yesterday a spokesman from the CPS said that Mr Addison "would get a decision as quickly as we have all the information."

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NOVEMBER



SKY MOVIES

Indecent Proposal
Adult romantic drama which poses the question: what would you do for one million dollars? 5th, 6th, 13th, 23rd.

Malcolm
Spike Lee's Washington in the most in leaders 7th, 23rd.

Spotswood
Anthony Hopkins who discovers a company where the nerve centre of the operation is the canteen. 6th.

Honeymoon in Vegas
A young couple experience all kinds of trouble when they go to Las Vegas to get married. 13th.



THE MOVIE CHANNEL

Lethal Weapon 3
Cops Riggs and Murtaugh (Mel Gibson and Danny Glover) return for another all-action adventure. 3rd, 16th, 27th.

My Girl
A gentle tale of the pleasures of love. 13th.

Paradise Beach
A getaway from the sun-kissed beach days and nights. 13th.

Trek: The Motion Picture
Trekies can't resist a night on Sky One. Week 1.

A Few Good Men
Tom Cruise as a lawyer who defends two Marines accused of murdering a fellow Marine. 13th.

Kaffee
A comedy about a man who follows him through to his early days in Hollywood and his rise to international stardom in films. 7th.

Jack the Bear
Danny DeVito learns to face his fears. 13th.

Alive
Harrowing yet amazing true story about a group of rugby players on tour, whose plane crashes in the middle of the Andes mountain range; but who survive against all the odds. 19th and 27th.

The Bodyguard
Kevin Costner is a bodyguard who reluctantly takes on a new client, singing superstar Whitney Houston. 6th.

Far and Away
Tom Cruise plays an Irish man who heads off to New York encountering a woman (Nicole Kidman). 13th.

Boxing Helena
Julian Sands stars as a man whose obsession with a beautiful young woman (Sherilyn Fenn) takes him to behavioural extremes. 11th.

Love Field
Romance with Michelle Pfeiffer as a housewife who treks across the states to Washington DC and on the way meets friendly black man and his little daughter. 20th and 30th.

National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1

Jack Colt (Emilio Estevez) and Wes Luger (Samuel L. Jackson) are a couple of mismatched cops very much along the line of Riggs and Murtaugh in the Lethal Weapon films. 26th.



Paradise Beach
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SKY SPORTS

Football: The Premiership
The big matches. 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th. 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th. Man. United vs. Man. City. Cup Testimonial. Round 1. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th.

Football: The Premiership
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Historical design confuses Stephenson's Rocket with Stockton's famous locomotive

Railway tribute in lights makes wrong connection

By PAUL WILKINSON AND LUCY BERRINGTON

STOCKTON has tarnished its place in history as birthplace of the railways by getting its points crossed over the design of a group of commemorative lampposts, it was claimed yesterday.

The four new lampposts in the Cleveland town were supposed to depict Locomotion No 1, the engine that pulled the world's first steam-powered public passenger service to Darlington in 1825. But the design shows the Rocket, a steam engine that ran on the Liverpool-Manchester line four years later and has no connection with Stockton.

According to Stephen Smiles, a former Mayor of Stockton, anyone with even a basic knowledge of railway history would see from the prominent diagonal side piston that the engine on the lampstand was the Rocket. "It

stands out like a sore thumb," he said. "Whoever designed this doesn't know their history."

"We are talking about Stockton's place in world history," Mr Smiles said. Our logo is 'Birthplace of the railways' yet here in the centre of the town we've got it wrong. Little things like this stick in the minds of visitors. It's a real boob."

The lampstands, part of a £2.1 million refurbishment of Stockton, were installed in front of the town hall, where in 1810 the idea of a passenger railway was first mooted. They were commissioned by Chris Oldershaw, the head of City Challenge, an agency of the Environment Department. Mr Oldershaw acknowl-

edged the error, saying: "It's unfortunate and we did look at the possibility of replacing it, however at the moment we have decided to stick with the design as it is."

"The artist worked with local schoolchildren and this was their idea. We decided to stick with it rather than interfere with the integrity of their designs."

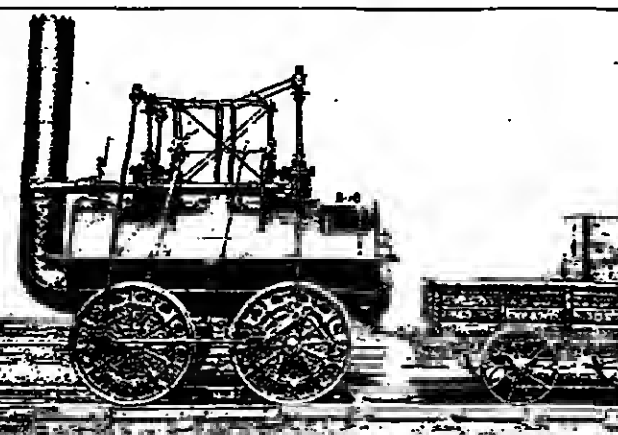
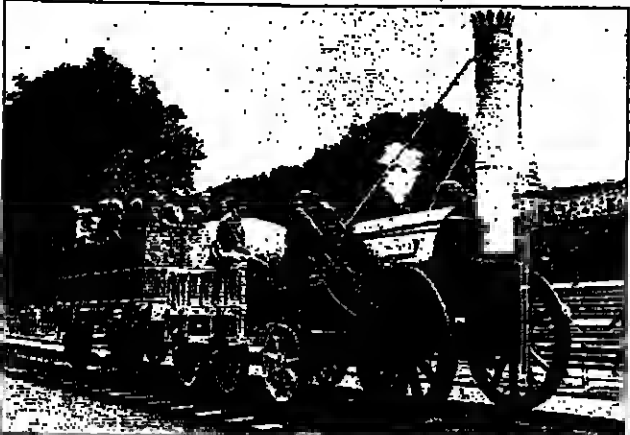
Bob Harbron, a local historian, said: "Everyone agrees it is a beautiful piece of work, but it is definitely the Rocket."

The Rocket was George Stephenson's prototype for the modern steam locomotive. It moved at 36 miles per hour, and in 1829 won a competition for the best locomotive.

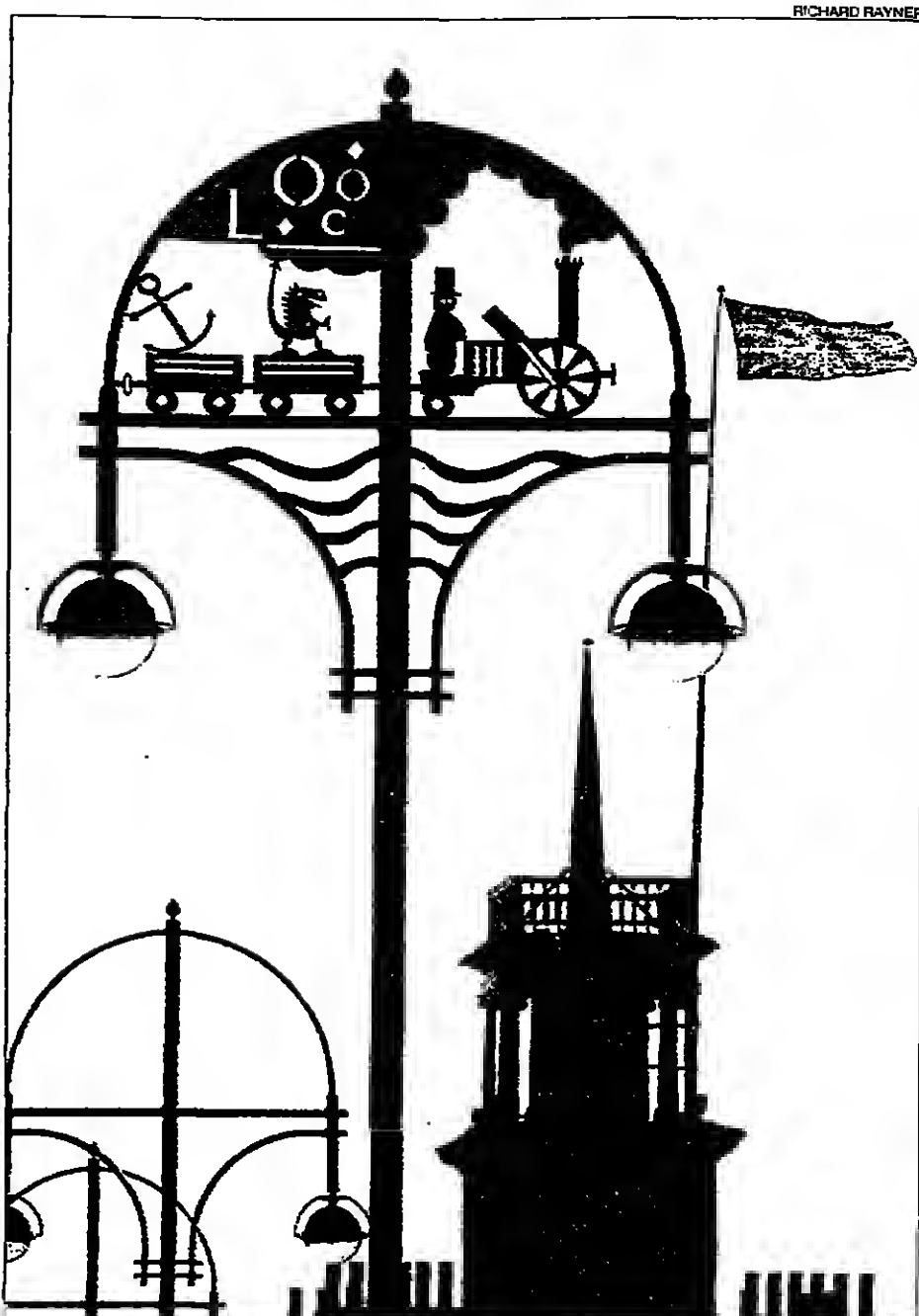
that used locomotive traction, and the first to carry both freight and passengers.

Over the next five years Stephenson designed the Liverpool and Manchester railway, which in 1830 launched the railway era proper. The proprietors held a contest to discover which was the best type of locomotive and Stephenson's Rocket beat Sans Pareil, built by Timothy Hackworth, and the Novelty, built by John Braithwaite and John Ericsson.

The success of the Rocket was attributed largely to its multiple-fire-tube boiler, which was designed by Marc Seguin and which replaced the single-flue version. It had diagonal cylinders, marking the transition between vertical and horizontal, and its pistons connected to a single pair of driving wheels.



A modern replica of George Stephenson's Rocket, left, Locomotion No 1 and the errant lamppost design. A former mayor of Stockton described the confusion of the two engines as "a real boob"



Ex-army woman in baby case demands £505,000

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER servicewoman suing the Ministry of Defence for a record £505,000 criticised the armed forces yesterday for creating a culture which assumed that women join up to get married "and then leave in order to breed".

Abigail Kirby-Harris, a mother of two, is claiming compensation from the ministry for being dismissed from the Army after becoming pregnant.

As a captain in the Royal Army Education Corps who had served on attachment to the special forces, she had hoped to be promoted to major but was "compulsorily retired" from the services in 1982 when she became pregnant.

Mrs Kirby-Harris, 44, is the latest ex-servicewoman to claim compensation after the ministry admitted liability for breaching European legislation on sexual discrimination.

So far, 2,962 claims have been sent at a cost of £31 million — an average of £10,400 per woman — and 1,500 cases are outstanding. The ministry has appealed against nine awards and has another 17 appeals lodged.

Last week, the ministry withdrew its appeal against a £350,000 award to Josephine Green, a navy nurse — the highest claim until yesterday — after criticism from the judge heading the appeals tribunal.

Mrs Kirby-Harris joined the Royal Army Education Corps on a short-term commission as a 2nd lieutenant in 1978. She was promoted to captain after a year.

She told the tribunal that women were treated very dismissively. She added: "The culture which assumes that all women were in to get married and then leave in order to breed was not one I felt comfortable with."

Mrs Kirby-Harris, who is demanding £505,000 compensation for loss of salary, pensions and allowances, said she felt a "burning sense of injustice". The case, which continues today, is expected to test new guidelines that have criticised "manifestly excessive" payments by tribunals.

Flying visit spreads dispute over celibacy in sex education

By BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of American experts is being flown to Britain today to spearhead a campaign against sex education lessons that promote teenage celibacy. The Family Planning Association and the Sex Education Forum are sponsoring the visit to highlight concern about the advance of abstinence-based sex education championed by religious groups in the United States.

The move follows the growing

popularity of sex education lessons in American schools that trumpet the virtues of abstinence and urge young people to remain virgins until they marry. Pupils are given T-shirts saying "Stop at the lips" and badges reading "I'm worth waiting for." They chant refrains in class such as "Do the right thing, wait for the ring" and "Be confident Be a virgin!"

The trend has polarised debate in America where teenage pregnancy rates are the highest in the western world. Health educa-

tion professionals who believe young people need explicit information rather than moral lectures have been put on the defensive.

Debra Haffner, executive director of the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), and another senior official will address three conferences of health professionals in London and Sheffield this week.

Ms Haffner said abstinence sex education programmes promoted by American religious groups

were based on fear and designed to induce shame and guilt in young people about sexual behaviour. She said: "They withhold information about contraception and protection against sexually transmitted diseases and are often riddled with misinformation."

Ms Haffner said that programmes needed to support young people who were virgins but it was imperative that sexually active young people were given the help they needed. She will be accompanied on the visit by Leslie Kantor,

director of community advocacy for SIECUS.

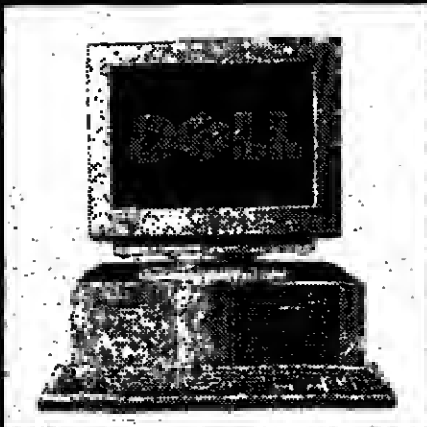
The Family Planning Association said there was no evidence that state schools had adopted the abstinence-based approach yet. However, Californian publishers of textbooks for a course called Sex Respect said last year that they had received orders from Britain. The textbook devotes four chapters to arguing that Aids can be spread by French kissing, saying that "anyone can be carrying your death warrant". Another section says

that, on a date, "don't let any part of anyone else's body get anywhere between you and your clothes".

Lady Olga Maitland, Conservative MP for Sutton and Cheam and a member of the Commons Education Select Committee, said the FPA and Sex Education Forum were misdirecting their energies by inviting speakers to criticise abstinence-based programmes. She added: "They should be looking and learning from this new movement. It is a backlash to the liberal approach."

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Water sports at risk as pollution off South Wales beaches is linked to disease

Sea bathers threaten legal action over illness

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A SPATE of illnesses, including paralysis, among people bathing off the Gower peninsula in South Wales is likely to cause the cancellation of water sports there and could lead to legal action. Two teenagers are in wheelchairs after swimming in Oxwich Bay this summer.

A surfing competition is expected to be called off after at least ten people who have been to Oxwich Bay and Mewslade Bay on the peninsula reported symptoms including blurred vision, back pain, breathing difficulties and skin problems.

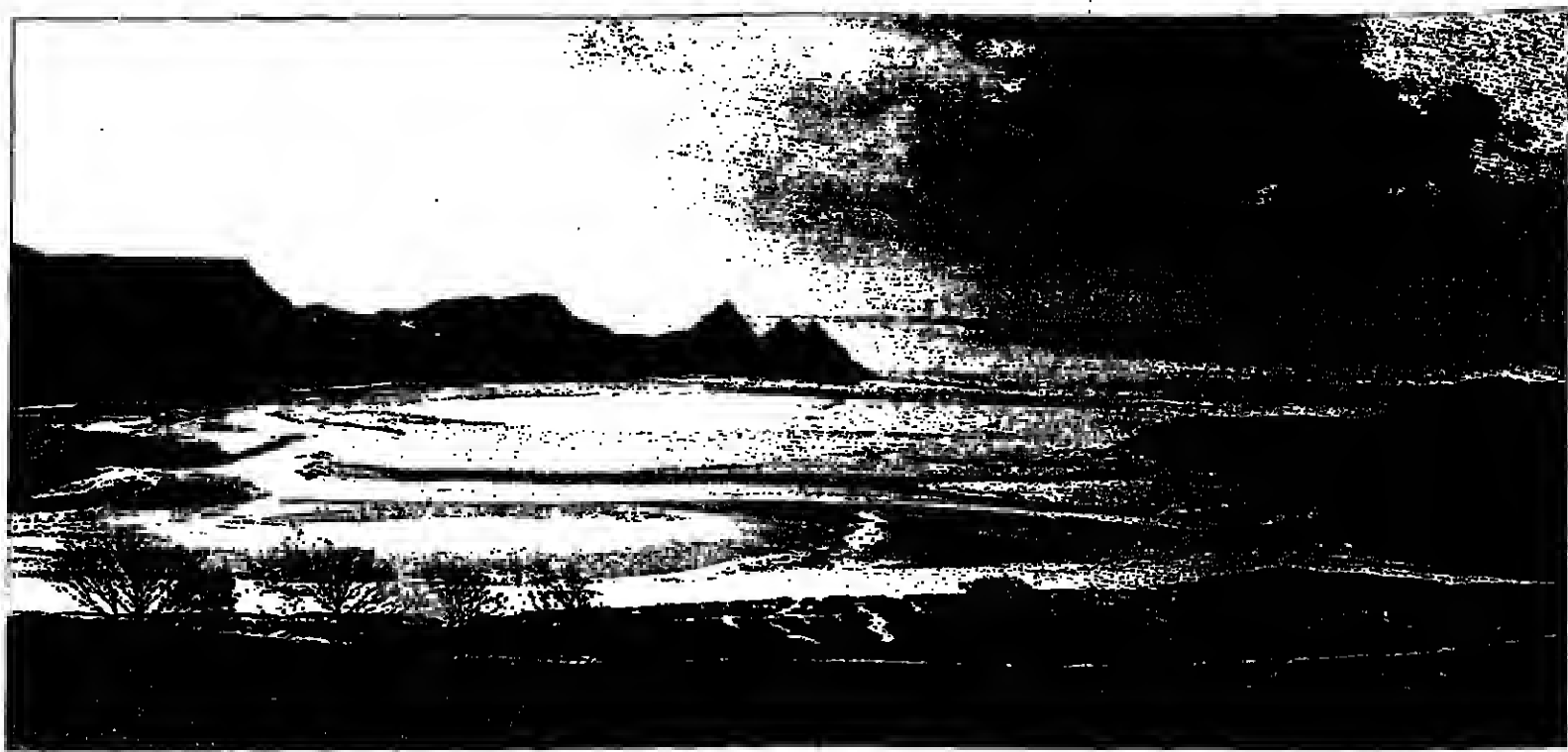
John Osborne, 17, from Enegllyn, Mid Glamorgan, was windsurfing in the bay in June when he felt a pain in his spine and suffered paralysis in

his legs 45 minutes later. Cassandra Lewis, of Glangaman, Dyfed, has suffered similar problems after visiting Oxwich.

Sally Moor, a lawyer with the firm of Leigh Day in London, is to visit the two teenagers and a third, unnamed victim, today and will consider legal action. "It is very suspicious that so many people have come down with these illnesses."

The finger has been pointed at Welsh Water which discharges treated sewage into the bay. But there are also scores of industrial and other discharges at nearby Swansea, and elsewhere on the Gower.

The water company says it has a secondary treatment works at Oxwich which has helped the bay to achieve a listing in the *Good Beach Guide*. But Dr Steven Myint of Leicester University said that despite the apparent cleanliness of the water and the discharges, viruses able to cause the illnesses being found can survive many sophisticated treatments, including chlorination and ultraviolet light. Dr Myint, a



Threecliff Bay on the Gower peninsula, an area in which water-borne viruses have been blamed for a rash of illnesses, including paralysis

virologist, said that the amounts of viruses discharged into bathing waters depended partly on the extent of treatment and the make-up of local communities.

"There tend to be more viruses discharged into the water in areas where large numbers of children live," he said. Dr Myint said the viruses that routinely contaminate bathing waters can trigger illnesses including tumours, hepatitis, skin damage and hepatitis. Some, called enteroviruses and similar to polio, can cause meningitis which can lead to paralysis.

As officials with the National Rivers Authority, the local council and the water company met yesterday in Swansea to discuss the issue, Surfers Against Sewage, an

anti-pollution group, said this weekend's competition at nearby Landland Bay may be abandoned.

Chris Hines, a spokesman, said: "There will be 50 or so of us in the water two to three miles down the coast. We have now got to consider whether to run it in the light of these cases."

He added that the symptoms being reported in South Wales were cropping up at beaches around the country. James Andrews, a windsurfer from Eastbourne, contracted hepatitis A two years ago after surfing off the East Sussex resort.

A legal case was dropped after Mr Andrews returned to work and lost his right to legal aid. But Mr Hines said a toxicologist who advised on the case had stated that the

surfer's illness was probably due to faecal contamination of the water. Charles Hopkins, also a lawyer at Leigh Day, said he was now pursuing 15 cases in which contaminated bathing waters are claimed to have caused chronic illness.

British bathing waters are required to meet European standards of cleanliness. Sewage contamination is at present measured by the level of bacteria, called faecal coliforms, found in the water. The directive is up for revision with member states planning to discuss the issue in January 1995.

Dr Myint urged the Government to back a move to make viruses rather than bacteria the standard for giving a beach a clean bill of health. Illnesses, he said, were caused mainly by viruses.



John Osborne, in a wheelchair after windsurfing

Man shot in pub is charged

One of the four men wounded in a shooting and stabbing at a south London public house at the weekend was released from hospital and arrested for attempted murder yesterday.

Police, who are trying to check his identity, have been confronted with silence from many of the 50 drinkers in the Milliput Hall pub in Bermondsey at the time. Detectives believe the shots were fired inside the pub.

Priest dies in club

A Dublin parish is mourning a Roman Catholic curate who died in a gay sauna club in the city after an apparent heart attack. The last rites were administered to Father Liam Cosgrove, 66, by two priests believed to have been on the premises at the time.

High honour

A Boeing 767 has been named after Brian Johnston, the late cricket commentator, after he was the most popular choice in a survey run in a company magazine by Britannia Airways. Johnston's widow Pauline said she was thrilled at the news.

£3m theft charge

An accountant appeared before Bow Street Magistrates yesterday accused of stealing more than £3 million from the rock singer Sting. Keith Moore, 50, of Fulham, west London, who faces 14 charges of theft, was remanded on bail until December 12.

Cocaine case

A Portuguese polio victim accused of smuggling £80,000 of cocaine into Britain in his leg callipers was remanded in custody by Horseferry Road Magistrates yesterday. Antonio Joaquim, 32, is charged with possession and intent to supply.

Flying farther

A grey heron from Britain has been recovered alive from fishermen's nets in The Gambia. The British Trust for Ornithology said the 3,000-mile flight was the longest recorded by a British heron. The bird was one of three ringed last year.

Howard tightens rules on leave for high-risk prisoners

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

HIGH-RISK prisoners will have to comply with new guidelines before they are eligible for home leave or temporary release from jail under regulations being introduced later this week.

The rules, applying at first to prisoners convicted of violent or sexual crimes and offences of robbery, will be extended to all 50,000 prisoners next month. They include increased spot checks on prisoners'

whereabouts while in the community and checks that they return directly to prison.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday that a prison helpline would be set up to allow victims of crime to put their views on whether or when a prisoner should be allowed temporary leave. Mr Howard's overhaul of the regulations governing home leave follows a number of incidents that have caused public concern recently. In the past month two prisoners on home leave from

Maidstone prison have been charged with murder.

The Home Secretary said the changes were needed to ensure a more rigorous assessment for all temporary absences from prisons. "My message to prison governors will be clear, if there is any doubt, don't let out," Mr Howard told the annual conference of Victim Support in London. Under the new proposals prison governors will discuss cases with the police and probation service before inmates are allowed to leave jails for short

visits or to take jobs or attend education courses. Probation officers working in the community as well as those in prisons will have to be consulted and so will victims of crime when practical.

The telephone helpline will start operating next month from a prison service building in Birmingham and victims will be able to express their views or fears to staff who will pass them on to a prison governor. Victims will not have a veto on whether a prisoner is allowed to leave jail, although the governor

will be expected to take into account their views.

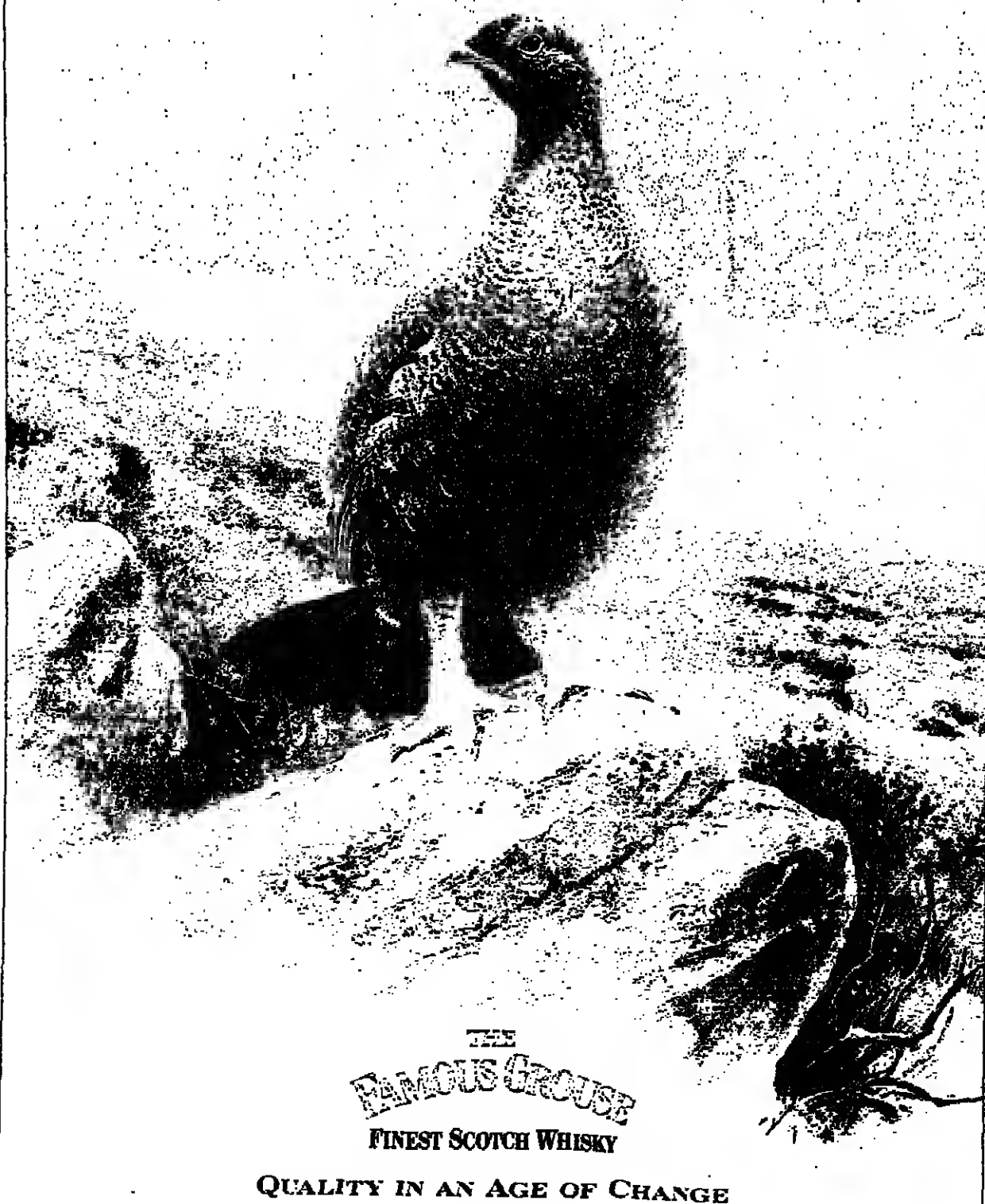
Practitioners in the criminal justice system questioned the practicality of the helpline and asked how victims would know prisoners were due for release.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said there were 140,000 cases of home and temporary leave each year. "Who on earth is to tell the victims of the crimes that the prisoners are up for consideration?" he said. Mr

Howard denied that the helpline was a publicity stunt but admitted that victims would not know when prisoners were due for home leave or temporary release. He said: "Victims will only need to make a phone call to inform the prison service of their feelings."

Three prison officers have been sacked by the governor of Swalesdale Prison in Kent after they took a convicted murderer to dinner with Kenneth Noye, who served five years in jail for his part in the Brinks Mat raid in 1983.

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£50m remodelling by Sir Norman Foster will open central courtyard and liberate Reading Room

British Museum to be transformed for new millennium

BY MARCUS BINNEY

Sir Norman Foster yesterday unveiled details of a £50 million remodelling of the British Museum, intended to rival recent work at the Louvre in Paris. The Foster plan will free the great courtyard of the museum, unseen for nearly 150 years, from a clutter of book stacks, leaving the great domed Reading Room standing free in the centre.

The whole courtyard will be covered in a lightweight translucent roof and become the main access to all the museum's galleries. At peak hours, conditions in the museum become intolerable as visitors going to distant parts of the building push through galleries crowded to capacity.

Sir Norman said: "The British Museum currently has 6.5 million visitors a year, compared to 4.9 million at the Louvre and 4.7 million at the



Sir Norman: plan will help visitors to circulate

Met in New York. Our new circulation will have absolute clarity. And unlike the Louvre, where anyone crossing from one wing to another has to descend to the basement, movement across the great court at the British Museum

will be at both ground and first-floor level.

Lifts and a spiral ramp ascending Guggenheim-style round the drum of the Reading Room will enable visitors to admire the architecture of the newly exposed courtyard and its four huge porticoes.

Sir Norman also confirmed the Reading Room would be opened to the public, be used as a museum library and retain its library fittings. "The library breathes history. The idea of stripping it out as a bald drum for exhibition space is rubbish," he said. He was keen to repaint the entrance hall and staircase after the recently discovered original colour scheme.

Lord Windlesham, chairman of the trustees said: "This is a £100 million scheme of refurbishment to mark the museum's 250th anniversary. We will be applying to the Millennium fund for a £50



A photomontage showing the Reading Room standing free in the central courtyard cleared of its clutter, right, of adjoining storehouses

million contribution. The British Museum has always been a publicly funded museum and while we have been successful in raising sponsorship for individual galleries, we cannot take advantage of the unique opportunity that arises when the British Library moves to St Pancras, unless we have lottery support." He

continued: "One of the problems is that our north entrance is far too little used... Sir Norman's plans will change this."

Criticism of the scheme came from Peter Cannon-Brookes, former director of the National Gallery of Wales. He said: "The British Museum already has far too high an

attendance figure. Visiting can be a thoroughly disagreeable experience."

The new covered great court will provide many more facilities for shops and catering. The museum will be opening galleries for ethnography and British archaeology in other parts of the building vacated by the British Library.

Spencer de Grey, the project architect, said: "The new roof will probably not be glass but a double-skin inflated pillow of fabric coated in Teflon. This is very durable and soft acoustically and in a fire would simply disappear upwards, allowing natural ventilation in. It will also place a minimum of weight on the stone-

work of the courtyard facade." Sir Norman added: "There will be panels of clear glass around the courtyard so the porticoes will always be seen against the sky." The latest date given for the British Library move is the end of 1996 and the work on the new courtyard would take two and a half years.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North

Love all

♠ Q J 10 8 7
♥ 9 2
♦ A Q 3 4
♣ A 3

♠ 8 6 4 3
♥ A 7
♦ 10 6 5
♣ K 10 9 8

♠ K 8 3
♥ K J 7 5 2
♦ Q J 2
♣ K 2

♠ Q J 10 8 5 4
♥ 3
♦ 7 6 5 4
♣ 3

W N E S
Pass 1st Pass 1NT (1)
All pass Pass 2nd 2V (2)

Opening lead ♠3

(1) Even with such an imbalanced hand, South has to bid 1NT, as he does not have enough high cards to respond at the two-level.
(2) Showing a weak hand with king hearts.

By ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I've always found losing to parent-child partnerships particularly galling, so I was pleased to see that it can happen to the best. The deal above features a young American girl as West playing with her mother against Eddie Kantar, many times world champion, in an American national event.

On the previous deal she had made 3NT by endplaying Kan-

tar and then produced this defence. She started well by leading a low trump against Kantar's Two Hearts. Her partner won with the ace and returned the suit to West's king.

Now West played the queen of clubs, ducked all round, and led another club to dummy's ace. Kantar played a spade to his king. West won with the ace, played a club to her partner, discarded her spade on the club continuation and got a spade ruff to beat the contract by two tricks.

KEENE on CHESS

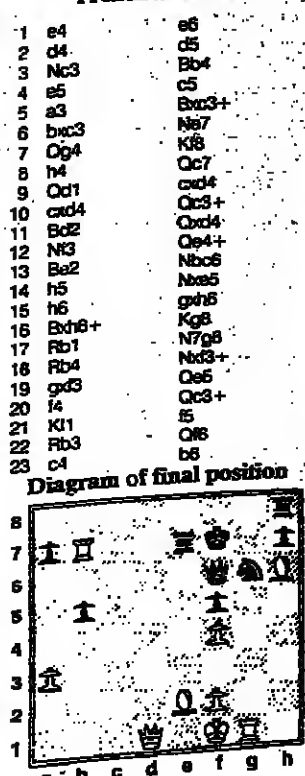
By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's triumph

Having eliminated the Russian grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik in the semi-final of the Intel Grand Prix in Paris, the world champion Garry Kasparov demolished the former Yugoslav grandmaster Predrag Nikolic in the final, earning a total of \$67,500 (about £42,000) for winning the tournament and sharing first prize in the grand prix circuit with Kramnik. In the first game of the final Kasparov won a beautiful contest, showing disregard for material considerations and fighting only to gain the initiative.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Predrag Nikolic
Intel Grand Prix, Paris, 1994

French Defence



24 cxd5
25 fcd3
26 fcd1
27 dcd8
28 fcd8+
29 fcd7+
30 fcd7

Black resigns

In the second game of the final Kasparov outplayed Nikolic in a long and difficult endgame. Once again, the opening was characterised by Kasparov's willingness to sacrifice material for the initiative.

White: Predrag Nikolic
Black: Garry Kasparov
Intel Grand Prix, Paris, 1994

Benko Gambit

1 d4
2 c4
3 Nc3
4 e5
5 a3
6 bxc3
7 Qd4
8 h4
9 Qd1
10 cxd4
11 Bc2
12 Nf3
13 Bc2
14 Bc2
15 h5
16 Bc4+
17 Bc4
18 Rb4
19 Qd3
20 f4
21 Kf1
22 Rf3
23 c4
24 cxd4
25 Qc4
26 Qc4+
27 Nbd5
28 Nc3
29 Qc5
30 Qc5+
31 Qc5
32 Qc5
33 Qc5
34 Qc5
35 Qc5
36 Qc5
37 Qc5
38 Qc5
39 Qc5
40 Qc5
41 Qc5
42 Qc5
43 Qc5
44 Qc5
45 Qc5
46 Qc5
47 Qc5
48 Qc5
49 Qc5
50 Qc5

White resigns

Winning Move, page 44

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Neil: TV career in America thwarted

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Mr Rowe has now gone to the local police station to prove he is alive. The identity of the dead man remains a mystery.

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D I R E C T

Eurostar leaves behind trials plagued by delay to reach Paris Gare du Nord with time to spare

Tunnel pioneer's descendants realise his dream

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN PARIS



William Low and, below, the site of his tunnel dig in 1880

THE first commercial Eurostar train through the Channel Tunnel arrived in Paris a few minutes early yesterday, but for two of the passengers it was more than a hundred years late.

When cousins John and Richard Low boarded the train at Waterloo international station, they were embarking on a journey that marked the culmination of an endeavour begun by their great grandfather in the 19th century. It was William Low who started to dig the first tunnel under Shakespeare Cliff, with Ferdinand de Lesseps, engineer of the Suez Canal, digging towards him from the French side. Low had gone barely a mile when in 1882 military top brass, fearing a submarine invasion, intervened to have the project abandoned.

"Today marks a point in

history," John Low said. "It's rather splendid to see the fulfilment of what our great grandfather started."

Trial runs of the Eurostar have been plagued by delay and breakdown, but to the relief of all concerned yesterday the train slid out of Waterloo dead on time at 8.23 and glided to a halt at Platform 3 of Paris Gare du Nord two hours and 57 minutes later, three minutes ahead of schedule. The 700 passengers on the first full fare-paying run enjoyed a journey that was trouble-free, if maddeningly slow at the British end.

Richard Low recalled that when his ancestor gave parties in his tunnel, guests complained that the champagne was flat. "The bubbles were merely held at bay by the increased pressure down there. When the guests returned to the surface they experienced a sharp personal reminder that the champagne was not flat at all."

A similar experiment conducted by two passengers yesterday failed. They had finished their bottle of champagne before the train had even reached Ashford. Not everyone on board yesterday bubbled with enthusiasm.

Monday morning is not a good time to attempt a showy dash to the coast through the commuter traffic of Network SouthEast. The 18-coach Eurostar crept through south

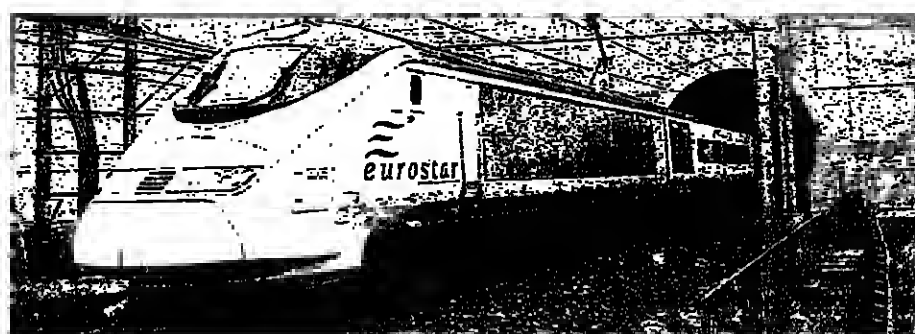


John and Richard Low, great grandchildren of the tunnel pioneer William Low, aboard the Eurostar, below

London, braking at Brixton, almost halting at Herne Hill, and poodling from Penge to Penge Wood. Blearny commuters gaped in the half-light as the custard-and-grey monster, capable of 180mph, staggered past at half the speed of an Orpington stopper, down to 10mph in places as it became snagged in the morning traffic.

There was ample time to admire the Kent countryside, looking less than its best on a drizzly November morning. Approaching the tunnel, the train at last began to lurch up, vanishing into the blackness at 9.40 and re-emerging into an equally dreary Pas de Calais at 9.58.

But then, on the dedicated French high-speed track, it at last had a chance to show its mettle, cruising at 180mph all



the way to the suburbs of Paris with the smoothness of the aircraft from which it hopes to steal much business.

Some passengers had put their names down for the inaugural run as soon as Margaret Thatcher and Francois Mitterrand announced the Eurotunnel project in 1986. Peter Jackson, a London

businessman, said the train trip to Paris would be his last. "The aisle is much too narrow," he said. "Everyone who passes bumps my shoulder. And doing 100mph through Kent is no incentive to travel. I shall go by plane in future."

His travelling companion, Sir Michael Fowler, was much more impressed, but

disappointed at the absence of duty-free sales.

At the Gare du Nord the French had rolled out the blue carpet to welcome the pioneering travellers, and the drivers, Robert Preston and Lionel Stevenson, were besieged by passengers seeking autographs. You don't see that on Network SouthEast.

Ferry firm offers £60 minibuss crossing

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE battle for cross-Channel passengers began in earnest yesterday when the ferry company Stena Sealink slashed prices on its Dover to Calais services.

Stena announced a new Apex fare of £60 for a car or minibuss with up to nine passengers, while the Channel Tunnel car-train service Le Shuttle launched a combined car hire and train ticket of £218. Le Shuttle was yesterday still unable to announce a starting date for its service. The company has yet to be granted an operating licence for its Folkestone to Calais service so cannot release a full fare package.

A planned advertising campaign is on hold but Le Shuttle says the prices will be competitive with ferries. The introductory fare of £218 is available only to those who hire a Hertz car in England for use beyond the Channel. Called Le Swap, the service allows the passengers to drive their hire car on to the train before swapping it at the other side for a similar car with left-hand drive.

The Stena Sealink Apex fare of £60 is for passengers booking a five-day return and is £10 less next year than the present price. Standard Apex returns start at £110 compared with this year's price of £126 and a peak summer Apex return will be £216.

Eurostar passenger services have attracted 20,000 bookings worth £2.4 million to the end of January.

£6m centre to research root of schizophrenia

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE founder of a small charity for the mentally ill set up five years ago has raised £6 million to build a research centre into the causes of mental illness.

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of SANE, the schizophrenia charity, and a former Times journalist, yesterday announced the go-ahead for the new centre at the Warneford psychiatric hospital in Oxford, which will pioneer research into schizophrenia and depression.

Ms Wallace approached overseas donors to avoid draining British resources from other mental health initiatives. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Stamatis Xylas, the Greek shipowner, each gave £1.75 million.

A further £1 million was given by the Sultan of Brunei.

Oxford University, which will have close links with the centre has donated £500,000 and the Medical Research Council is providing a £1 million research grant over three years. An appeal in The Times in May has drawn "numerous donations" from the public.

Ms Wallace said that mental illness devastated the hopes of young people at the peak of their promise. "We have been trying to help but what everyone wants is a cure. The new centre is the first major initiative anywhere in the world to tackle this common and destructive illness."

Professor Colin Blakemore, a neuroscientist at Oxford University and an adviser to SANE, said: "We have learnt more about the working of the brain in the past ten years than in the entire history of science. Now we are on the brink of extending our knowledge towards the conquest of brain disease."

The centre, to be named the Prince of Wales International Centre for Research into Schizophrenia and Depression, after its patron, will initially conduct research into the genetic basis of schizophrenia. Studies show that children who later develop schizophrenia often fail to establish dominance in their handedness (become clearly right or left-handed) and that this could be linked with dominance of the right or left hemispheres of the brain or the degree of communication between them.

Ms Wallace once said the secret of successful fund-raising was to attract potential donors and then find some common ground. Mrs Xylas's daughter, Mami Egon, had introduced her parents to Ms Wallace after reading her articles in The Times. They in turn introduced Ms Wallace to the Saudi royal family.



Wallace used extensive contacts to raise money

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UN force in Bihac short of rifles and medicine

FROM JELI BRAND IN SARAJEVO

THE 1,200 Bangladeshi United Nations troops deployed to protect the Bihac "safe area" have only 250 to 300 rifles among them, and are critically short of medical supplies and winter gear because the Serbs refuse to allow UN convoys into the enclave.

No other peacekeeping unit in the former Yugoslavia has been deployed without a personal weapon for virtually every "blue helmet". A Bangladeshi officer in the enclave said by telephone: "The ship carrying our weapons was delayed and the Croatian Serbs are now blocking them."

A UN officer confirmed that their situation was desperate. "They have some weapons, but don't have enough for each person," he added. "It is completely disgraceful that they have been put into this situation without proper arms and medical or winter supplies."

The Bangladeshi battalion replaced French soldiers who left last month without giving the new troops sufficient time to assemble their weapons before being deployed to Bihac.

Bosnian Serbs have now stepped up their harassment of UN troops. British troops in Gorazde, denied fuel by a rebel blockade, conducted a trial run using mules to ferry supplies last month.

Yesterday, the Serbs launched a counter-attack against Croat forces defending the recently captured town of Kupres in central Bosnia, a senior Muslim-led army source said. A Serb attack has been expected for some days, but there was no independent confirmation of the Bosnian army report that Serb infantry and artillery were in action.

Nato chief rebukes Clinton for breaking ranks over embargo

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NOORDWIJK

WILLY Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, yesterday urged the United States to demonstrate greater transatlantic solidarity after President Clinton's decision last week to stop enforcing the Bosnian arms embargo.

European foreign and defence ministers, who gathered yesterday for a meeting of the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) in The Netherlands, voiced their frustration over the American decision, and are anxious about political destabilisation of Nato, even though the decision will have minimal military implications.

Mr Claes told a press conference that the "practical military implications are limited and perfectly manageable", given America's rela-

tively small contribution to Operation Sharp Guard, the joint Nato-WEU operation that patrols the Adriatic Sea and enforces the embargo.

But despite these assurances, Mr Claes could not hide his irritation. In a clear rebuke to the Americans, he added that "on both sides of the Atlantic, we must avoid taking decisions that endanger the mantle of solidarity". He said: "I am a democrat, and I respect the decision taken by the US Congress. But I emphasise that there exists a mandate from the UN Security Council, and it is necessary to enforce this mandate."

However, he sought to play down the long-term political implications of last week's decision, saying: "It is not the first time in the history of Nato

that the rules of engagement were not applied by one of its allies." Mr Claes is due to visit President Clinton in Washington later this week.

Yesterday's ministerial meeting at the Dutch seaside resort of Noordwijk, in which ministers from Central and Eastern European countries took part for the first time, discussed the future role of the WEU, which is to a great degree dependent on developments within Nato.

Proponents of a stronger WEU, headed by the French, argue that Nato's political disarray underscores the need to develop the WEU from an obscure European pillar of Nato into an autonomous pillar of the European Union, which would stand alongside the Community and the two inter-governmental pillars of foreign and security policy, and internal and justice affairs. Britain, formerly hostile to such plans, has become increasingly open-minded.

Wim van Eekelen, the outgoing Dutch WEU Secretary-General, said before the meeting that the debate was moving in favour of proponents of a stronger WEU. "I have a feeling that people are more positive than in the past on whether to consider the WEU as a fourth pillar."

A senior British source said the debate should develop on the basis of practical questions such as "What could be the precise [military] tasks for which the WEU could constitute a source?" and "How can we move towards decision-making processes to move these sources?"

The new concept of the Combined Joint Task Forces (CJTF), the latest element in the alphabet soup of acronyms, played only a subdued part in yesterday's discussions. Through the CJTF, it is envisaged that multinational task forces would be deployed for specific military tasks. WEU diplomats do not expect a breakthrough on the CJTF until after the French elections next year, given the political sensitivity of this issue, and the criticism that such task forces could amount to a loss of national sovereignty.

Bosnian leader calls for arms

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HARIS Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, yesterday heaped praises on the "monumental" talents of Peter Howson, the Bosnian war artist sponsored by *The Times* — and vitriol on European leaders for their "failure to act against genocide".

Speaking after viewing Howson's work at the Imperial War Museum in London,



Silajdzic: "neutrality amounts to complicity"

Mr Silajdzic spoke of the shell-shocked children of Bosnia and said: "When you look into the eyes of a grey-haired seven-year-old, there is no way to express what you see in words. That is why you have art, and I think these paintings are monumental."

Mr Silajdzic said that "like Churchill" he would ask Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office Minister, for "the tools to do the job" of defending Bosnia. Britain and other European allies oppose America's drive to lift the arms embargo against the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

The Bosnian leader called on Britain to end the arms embargo and support air strikes on Serb forces attacking the Bihac region. "The arms embargo was productive only in the numbers of people killed and expelled — 200,000 killed and 1.5 million expelled. Neutrality amounts to complicity," he said. "Our faith in the future of Europe has been broken."



Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, who won the referendum on joining the EU, and his wife, Winberg, the Agriculture Minister who supported the "no" campaign, hug after casting their rival votes.

Sweden joins EU as 'problem child' after close referendum

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN STOCKHOLM

THE European Union was yesterday digesting the bitter-sweet news that Sweden had joined the Union, but that the "family" had acquired what Scandinavians like to call a "difficult child".

Sweden's politicians and business leaders celebrated the victory of a "yes" campaign which won 52 per cent of the vote, taking the country into the EU on schedule next January with Austria and Finland. The result enhances the reputation and power of Ingvar Carlsson, the Social Democrat Prime Minister, who calmly overrode his party's split over EU membership and swung undecided voters into his camp at the last moment by simply asking them to trust his promise that Sweden would prosper and survive inside the EU.

Senior politicians in the Union were evidently relieved that the group would expand as planned. "It shows Europe is still attractive... There is demand for Europe," said Jacques



Gudrun Schyman, a "no" campaign leader

Delors, European Commission President. Pro-EU votes in Austria, Finland and Sweden confirmed "the great attractiveness of united Europe", Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said.

But votes across Europe on EU membership and the Maastricht Treaty in the past few years have revealed that the effects of referendums

linger long after the question on the ballot paper has been settled. Sweden's weekend vote decides its membership of the EU but was sufficiently close to mean that ministers will be on a tight leash when they travel to Brussels and when the Maastricht Treaty is revised in 1996.

Asked if he was not worried by his narrow margin of victory, Mr Carlsson pointed out that Sweden had supported joining the EU more strongly than French voters had endorsed the Maastricht Treaty. But Sweden, entered the Union with doubts about the direction and speed of European integration.

Forthcoming elections for the Swedish seats in the European Parliament will almost certainly see Euro-sceptics elected, as they already have been in Denmark and France.

Sweden now joins Denmark and Finland in the EU to form a loose grouping of states which were prosperous and peaceful for many

years outside the Union and whose voters are wary of a supra-national bureaucracy in Brussels and ever alert to the risk of being steam-rollered by big states. Some of their interests will coincide with Britain's, but on other issues the new arrivals will be uncomfortable partners for London. Governments of both Left and Right in Sweden and Finland will press for more stringent EU social and environmental laws.

Whether four or three new countries join the EU next year will not, he known until November 28. But the effect on the EU's political balance is already clear. The Union's northern flank now consists of states whose political class was formed by liberal, Lutheran Protestantism and by the intimacy of small states. Nordic politics are open, informal and elected representatives are expected to keep their promises. Referendums on EU issues grow steadily more popular.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope points to sins of the Church

Rome: The Pope said yesterday that the Church should admit past sins, and suggested in a reference to Nazism that many Roman Catholics had acquiesced in the evils of totalitarianism. He also announced a series of Church gatherings round the world at the turn of the century to celebrate 2,000 years of Christianity. (Reuters)

Sword attack

Bucharest: Muhammad Ali Assadi, an Iranian described by Romanian newspapers as a political refugee, has been killed with a "ninja" sword in an attack at his home in Bucharest. (Reuters)

Alien nation

Geneva: Switzerland has turned down an application from a French journalist to build an embassy for visitors from outer space "until they have landed and been recognised as a community" under international law. (AFP)

US watches tense Greek and Turkish war games

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN ATHENS

AN AMERICAN destroyer, the USS Cape St George, is on patrol in the Aegean Sea to ensure naval war games involving rival Greek and Turkish fleets do not erupt into the real thing.

Turkey has threatened to declare war if Greece extends its territorial waters after an international sea convention comes into force tomorrow. Although Nato is convinced that the Turks are merely sabre-rattling, and the Greeks will maintain their current six-mile limit in the overcrowded Aegean, some European Union diplomats are concerned that there may be trouble this week.

Up to 12 Greek warships are said to be shadowing the Turkish vessels taking part in Operation Seawolf in international waters near the Greek islands of Lesbos and Skyros. The Cape St George is monitoring the situation from a position somewhere between the Turks and a routine Nato exercise approximately 200 miles to the south involving

the Greeks, British, French, Spanish and Italians.

One Nato official said: "We are watching them like hawks. Hopefully, our presence should act as a safety valve."

President Clinton has written to both governments urging them to act with restraint.



Andreas Papandreu, the ailing Socialist Prime Minister, is expected to reiterate that Greece reserves the right to double its territorial limit from six to 12 miles, as enshrined in the United Nations Law of the Sea. Evangelos Venizelos, the gov-

ernment spokesman, said yesterday: "Greece will not sell out its right."

The public Greek posture of "maybe we will extend, maybe we won't" has added to the tensions as tomorrow's deadline approaches. The Turks insist any increase will be interpreted as an aggressive act and thus a *casus belli*.

They argue that an extension would make it impossible for Turkish ships to leave harbour freely in the Aegean where, in some places, Greek islands are less than a mile from the Turkish mainland.

Analysts at the Hellenic Foundation for Defence and Foreign Policy Studies believe that, in the event of war, the Turks would seize perhaps two Aegean islands and hold them hostage.

But most analysts believe that the chances of war are extremely slim. The Greeks will act with restraint and the bellicose statements of Mumbaz Soyas, the Turkish Foreign Minister, are little more than hot air.

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Berlusconi heads for austerity budget win

Rome: Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian Prime Minister, was expected to win a confidence vote in parliament last night on his 1995 austerity budget, but his government faced more serious opposition on reform of pensions later this week (John Phillips writes).

The conservative administration called the vote on Friday on section 30 of the budget Bill, which provides for a pardon for building speculators who have built tenement blocks and other constructions illegally in return for paying a hefty fine to help plug the huge state spending deficit.

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Satellites reveal details of high-security project for last line of defence

Israel 'has developed 200 nuclear weapons'

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HIGH-RESOLUTION Russian and French satellite images show that Israel has developed at least 200 nuclear weapons. But evidence over the past five years also suggests that Israel does not consider the nuclear option to be a first-strike weapon but a last-resort device to be used only if the country is threatened with annihilation.

These are the main conclusions of an unprecedented expose of Israel's highly secret nuclear weapons programme, published in the current issue

of *Jane's Intelligence Review*. Harold Hough, the America-based author of books and articles on military strategy and satellite surveillance, says that until now little was known about Israel's nuclear capability. But photographs have now made it possible to follow the trail from the nuclear reactor to the final product.

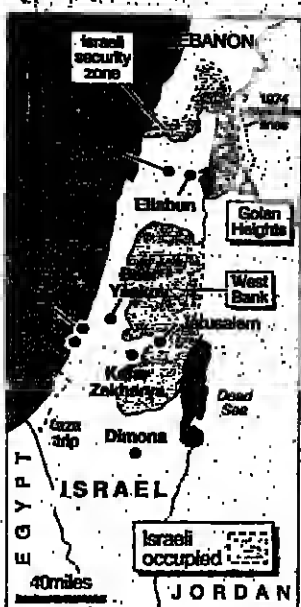
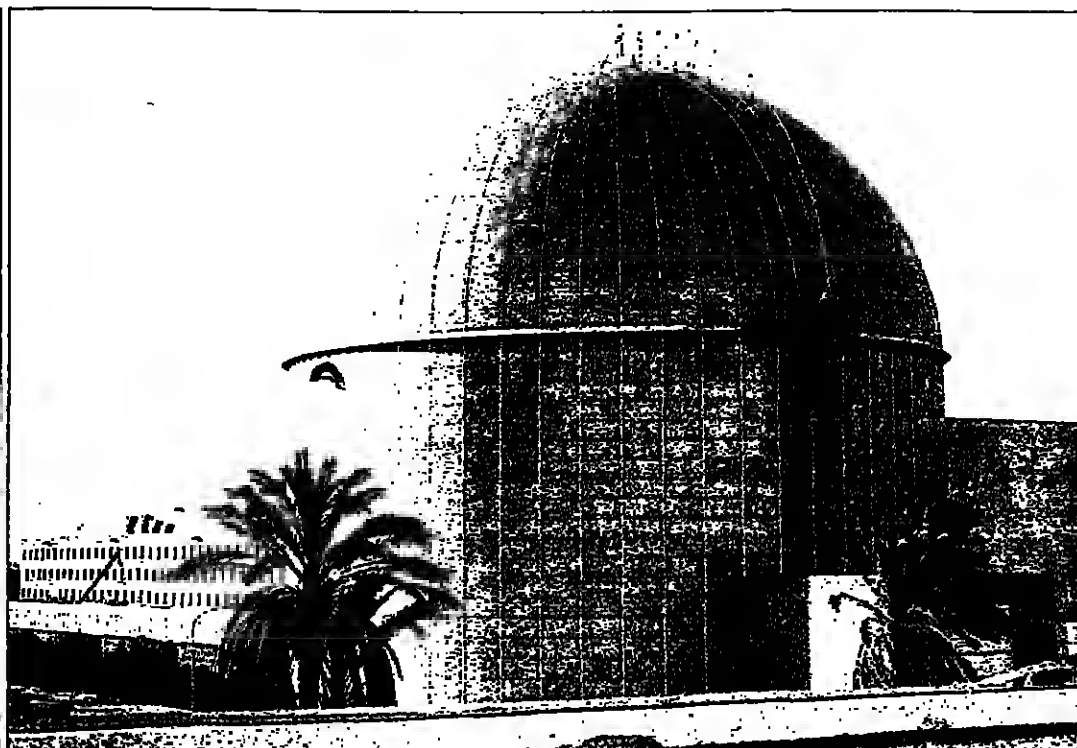
The programme is spread around the country. The site of the nuclear reactor and plutonium-processing plant is in the south, at Dimona in the Negev desert. The design and testing of nuclear weapons is in the centre at Soreq. The weapons are assembled at Beer Yaakov Jericho II; tactical nuclear weapons are stored at Ellabur. The missile base and home of the strategic nuclear deterrent is near Kefar Zekharya, in the Judean hills.

The area is naturally suited to the construction of underground bunkers because it is composed of limestone and riddled with caves. Mr Hough says of the Judean site: "Building began in 1976 and the base became operational in the 1970s. According to current satellite imagery, it is still undergoing expansion."

The older part of the facility consists of four buildings in revetments which lead to un-



Mordechai Vanunu, whose information on Israeli nuclear secrets has been confirmed by satellites which have spotted the reactor at Dimona



derground bunkers. For many years those bunkers housed the Jericho I mobile missiles and still store the gravity bombs for the nuclear-capable F4s and F16s stationed a few kilometres further north. To the south of these revetments are several roads that lead underground; there is also a bank of five surface-to-air missile emplacements.

To the southeast is the newer missile base built in the late 1980s and early 1990s to house the more modern Jericho II missile. Russian satellites from 1989 showed construction of missile bunkers but no perimeter fence; from 1991 onwards a fence was built and after 1992 more bunkers were completed.

Inside the perimeter of the new base several roads can be seen with side branches leading to 50 underground bunkers, where it is presumed 50

nuclear-tipped Jericho II missiles are stored. According to *Jane's*, it was at this base that the Jericho II was tested on September 14, 1989. It travelled about 800 miles and landed west of Crete.

Mr Hough said that the satellite images give insight into Israel's nuclear doctrine. "The strategic weapons are in the Judean foothills, the heart of Israel for three millennia. By placing their nuclear deterrent in the centre of the country, the Israelis have placed it in a defensible area that would be one of the last parts of Israel to fall to an

enemy." This clearly signalled it was a last-resort weapon.

Three characteristics give away the location of the nuclear facilities, he says. First, they are surrounded by an extremely heavy perimeter fence with many patrol roads; secondly, they are surrounded by heavy vegetation, even in the arid desert, to screen the sites from the roads; thirdly, there is an unusual amount of space inside the perimeter to give defence in depth.

Mr Hough acknowledges the information revealed by Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear technician now half-

way through an 18-year prison sentence, who revealed details to *The Sunday Times*. These have been confirmed by the satellites' "unbiased and verifiable sources of information".

He concludes that Israel builds about only a few nuclear weapons a year, but now has 60 Jericho II missiles, together with older Jericho I missiles in Galilee. "If Israel is trying to build a balanced strategic deterrent, it is logical to assume that the country has an equal if not larger number of gravity bombs. In addition, there would be a need for dozens of artillery shells,

landmines and special demolition devices that could push the final number up to nearly 200 weapons."

□ Gaza: Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip have arrested Shaikh Abdallah al-Shami, the spokesman of the Islamic Jihad organisation, as part of a sweep against the group which killed three Israeli soldiers last week. He was taken into custody on Sunday, in the latest of 150 arrests. Israel is putting pressure on the Palestinian Authority to crack down on Muslim groups that have killed nearly 30 people since October. (Reuters)

Rangoon linked to germ warfare

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BURMA'S military government is using germ warfare against the rebel Karen tribe, according to a report published today by Baroness Cox, the deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, and Christian Solidarity International, a human rights group.

Balloons containing traces of cholera and typhoid are being released by government planes over Karen villages, along the Thai-Burmese border, in a bid to defeat the last main ethnic minority still waging a guerrilla war against Rangoon. Villagers said that after the foul-smelling devices were released, people died from a cholera-type illness.

The report, issued after a ten-day, fact-finding visit to the area this month by Lady Cox and the human rights group, also documents cases of torture, killing and forced labour.

In one village, Karen medical staff told the team that 185 people had died from the disease, previously unknown in the area. One spent device has been brought back to the United Kingdom and will be analysed by the Foreign Office.

"I think a regime looking for ways to intimidate and destroy could use this kind of geography to get away with murder and not be found out," Baroness Cox told Associated Press Television during the journey.

America accuses Saddam of palace building spree

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United States yesterday accused President Saddam Hussein of Iraq of spending up to \$1 billion (£629 million) to build "pleasure palaces" for the country's ruling elite despite the crippling sanctions on his country.

Madeline Albright, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, showed members of the Security Council a dozen satellite photographs of the sprawling retreats. The information was assigned to defuse growing pressure for an early end to the UN oil embargo, and to emphasise that the hardships being suffered by Iraqis

were the fault of the government, and not the UN.

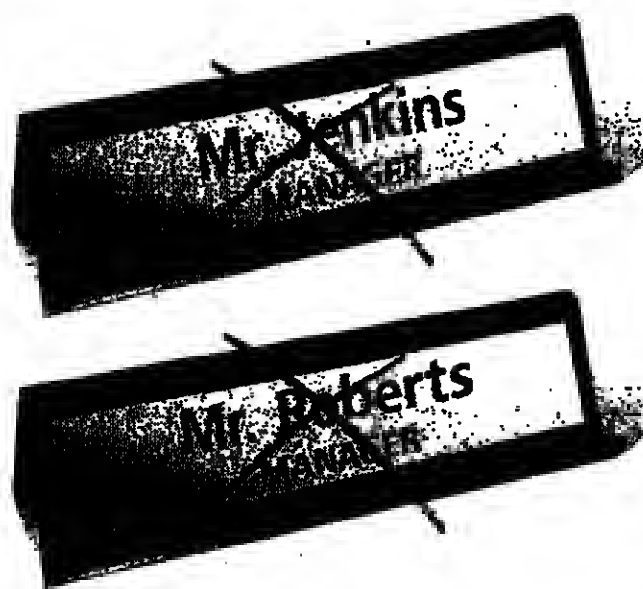
American officials said the building programme would triple to about 30 the number of official residences available for the elite at a time when food rations have been cut for the majority of the population. One complex in Saddam's home town of Tikrit contains at least 13 palaces and a lake, created by diverting water from the Tigris river. Another palace on Lake Tharthar is more than four times the size of the White House.

Iraq, the officials added, had sought to use the hu-

manitarian exception in the sanctions regime, imposed after the Gulf War, to import marble tiles, televisions, fur coats, ice cream, cigarettes and cameras. The charges of profligacy add to a litany of complaints by Washington and are intended to counter-act the support for an easing of sanctions.

But Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, who arrived at the UN to lobby for an easing of sanctions yesterday, ridiculed the claims as "rubbish". He said: "We are proud that these palaces, as well as all the sites that were bombed, have been rebuilt."

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Republicans poised to put Clinton's foreign policy into reverse



Dole opposes nuclear deal with North Korea

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON AND
ANATOL LIEVEN
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Clinton is busily assuring anxious world leaders that Republican control of Congress will not affect American foreign policy, but the reality in Washington is quite the opposite.

The Republicans' foreign policy priorities differ starkly from the White House's, and with the ultra-conservative Jesse Helms chairing the Senate foreign relations committee they will be in a powerful position to obstruct Mr Clinton's agenda while advancing their own. More plausible than Mr Clinton's

assurances was the warning that President Yeltsin gave his top military commanders yesterday: "We can expect a certain toughening of the US stand in foreign policy and military issues."

Although Mr Yeltsin was making a bid to regain personal popularity with the military as reports forecast the impending dismissal of Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister accused of corruption, his warning of increased tension with America would not have come as surprising to the armed forces. In the past week, there has been strong criticism of American policy by Andrei Kozirev, the Russian Foreign Minister. Moscow and Washington differ on issues concerning Nato's

expansion, ending of sanctions against Iraq and lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia.

Mr Clinton will have trouble persuading Congress to authorise further aid to Russia or to almost anywhere, save Israel. Mr Helms has already announced a review of "the so-called foreign aid programme ... that has spent an estimated \$2 trillion (\$1.25 trillion) of the American taxpayers' money, much of it going down foreign rat holes". Despite Moscow's vehement objections, he also favours rapid Nato membership for Baltic and Central European nations.

America's commitment to the United Nations will suffer, too. Mr Helms calls that body "a long-time

nemesis of millions of Americans" that wastes billions of US dollars and says "a complete re-evaluation of the US-UN relationship is imperative". He wants to reduce America's troop and cash contributions to UN peacekeeping operations.

The Israeli government already fears the Republicans would block the deployment of US troops to patrol the Golan Heights - an essential condition of any Israeli-Syrian peace accord.

Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader from January 4, is leading congressional demands for the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia's Muslims despite the allies' objections. On Sunday he urged Mr Clinton to withdraw all 15,000 US

troops from Haiti by November 24, a move that could plunge that country back into chaos. He and other top Republicans have also challenged the agreement to give North Korea safe nuclear reactors worth \$4 billion if it abandons its nuclear weapons programme.

The new, more populist Republican Party may also prove more protectionist. An early test will come in two weeks when Congress votes on ratifying the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade accord. Mr Dole objects to the proposed new World Trade Organisation which would erode US independence. On Sunday, Daniel Moynihan, the Senate finance committee's outgoing chairman, said that the

accord had only 26 of the 60 Senate votes needed for approval.

Mr Helms's committee not only authorises spending for US activities overseas but must approve international treaties. He opposes the global biodiversity convention and the Law of the Sea treaty both of which the US signed recently but must still be ratified. He opposes a new treaty banning chemical weapons because of the potential for Russian cheating. Though Richard Lugar and other moderate Republicans may temper Mr Helms's wilder instincts, an adviser to Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said the gist of an internal State Department report was "fasten your seat belt".

Protesting Timor students offered asylum in Portugal

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN JAKARTA

PORTUGAL will give asylum to a group of 29 East Timorese students staging a demonstration inside the grounds of the United States Embassy in Jakarta, Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese Prime Minister, announced yesterday.

The students have been in the embassy compound for three days to demand a meeting with President Clinton or Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, to discuss the situation in East Timor, which has been occupied by Indonesia since the 1975 invasion.

Senhor Cavaco Silva said the Foreign Ministry was trying to arrange for the group to come to Portugal. He said recent events in East Timor, where Indonesian police have arrested 80 Timorese after an outbreak of rioting, again demonstrated "the oppression of the Timorese people over the years" by the Indonesian government.

There were further clashes in East Timor yesterday when 600 students rioted at the university after security forces

arrested one person. Eighty more were then arrested.

The leaders of 18 Asia-Pacific nations, including President Clinton, meet in the hill resort of Bogor today for an informal summit that the Americans hope will produce agreement on working towards free and open trade in the economically fast-growing region. Chile was the latest country to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum, which represents an area that makes up more than 40 per cent of global trade.

Human rights were also on the agenda when Mr Clinton raised rights issues during talks with Jiang Zemin, the Chinese President. However, anything the Americans say on the subject now must be coloured by their decision last May to separate trade and human rights issues.

The protests, occurring in the presence of 2,000 foreign journalists, are hugely embarrassing to President Suharto. Before he arrived, Mr Clinton said he would be raising

human rights concerns with the Indonesian government. "Now he has a perfect example to point to," one Western diplomat here noted.

Meanwhile, an Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday denied there was any aid-for-arms diplomacy involved in the planned sale of £2 billion worth of British military equipment to Indonesia. He said that all foreign aid to Indonesia was scrutinised carefully and went only to development programmes. "I can say that no aid is involved in British arms sales to Indonesia."

He did confirm that £16 million in British aid was involved in a project for a 35-mile toll road linking Jakarta with Bandung. Trafalgar House, a British construction company, is building the road with a company owned by President Suharto's daughter, Tutut. The fact that a member of Suharto's family is involved is hardly surprising, as it has a finger in almost every major joint venture.



First Ladies Anita Keating, left, of Australia, Hillary Clinton and Tien Suharto, of Indonesia, on a tour of a Jakarta culture park yesterday

US shuttle diverted by storm

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A TROPICAL storm at its Florida base forced the space shuttle *Atlantis* to land at Edwards air force base in California yesterday.

Atlantis is loaded with data collected over the past 11 days by six atmospheric and solar-energy monitors and a \$35 million (£22 million) German satellite. A seventh instrument, an ozone monitor, broke a day after the November 3 launch, but scientists said they got more than enough data and the mission was described as "almost flawless". One of the devices gathered enough information to fill 120,000 computer floppy disks.

Commander Donald McMonagle brought the spacecraft and its six astronauts down through a clear sky at the base in the Mojave desert, ending the 11-day atmospheric research mission. Hours before the scheduled touchdown at Kennedy space centre in Florida, it was obvious that the weather would bar any chance that *Atlantis* could land there.

"Welcome home. It's a great way to end '94. Beautiful mission," mission control told the crew after *Atlantis* rolled to a stop. It was the seventh and final shuttle flight of the year.

Fruit bats to join protected species

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH restrictions on trade in a range of exotic species including fruit bats, armadillos and pangolins, a kind of anteater, were expected to be in place this morning.

But a vote on South African plans to allow trade in elephant meat and hides is now not expected until later today.

Members of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, began voting on the fate of more than 100 species after preliminary talks last week. The first animals on the agenda are the golden capped

fruit bat and the panay giant fruit bat, two closely related species. Fruit bat stew is popular in some Pacific countries, and scores of species have declined in recent years. The bats, like bees, play a key role in pollinating fruit trees and flowers.

The Philippines, which is likely to succeed in its move to seek greater protection for the bats, proposed last night that all trade in the two species be banned. There are estimated to be between 5,000 and 100,000 of the bats in the Pacific, but their numbers are rapidly declining because of

deforestation, sport and use as a food supplement. Cites members were also planning to back a proposal to boost protection for the long-tailed, white-bellied and giant ground pangolins. The scales of these anteater species are used in traditional Far Eastern medicines.

Restricted trade in four species of armadillo was being proposed by Chile and was expected to be backed by Cites members. Another of the proposals to win backing last night was made by The Netherlands: it wants a ban on trade in red pandas to the pet

and zoo markets. The animals live in China, India and Bhutan, and it is claimed by the Dutch that their numbers are down to a few thousand. This figure is disputed by some states.

The meeting was also poised to vote on a controversial Norwegian proposal to downgrade two northeastern Atlantic populations of minke whale from Appendix I to Appendix II of the convention. This would enable Norway to resume whaling and win backing for its view that the species can be hunted without endangering its numbers.

Millions of banknotes carry drug traces

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

MOST of the millions of banknotes circulating in the Los Angeles area bears traces of drugs, according to research that has saved a man accused of trafficking.

The US Appeal Court threw out a case against Joseph Alexander, who was stopped by police earlier this year with \$30,000 (£19,000) in cash in his car, most of it bearing traces of cocaine. The case was dismissed when the judge heard that three out of four notes in Los Angeles, and an even higher proportion of the

\$20 bills used to inhale, and pay for drugs, were tainted. Notes that have not passed through a drug dealer's hands for some time may carry as little as one-billionth of a gram, while others may carry as much as a milligram, according to Jay Williams, a toxicologist.

A note that has been used to snort cocaine can contaminate an entire cash register, the court heard. Jerold Bloom, for the defence, said that virtually everyone in the city could be accused of trafficking.

Carjacker in street gun battle

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SAN FRANCISCO

AN ARMED man hijacked two cars then killed a policeman and wounded three other people in a 25-minute barrage of machinegun fire in San Francisco.

The gunman was shot and killed by police after firing more than 100 rounds into buildings and traffic. "I was like war," said Charles Malloy, who abandoned his van when it was hit.

The man, wearing a bullet-proof vest and battle dress and carrying at least three weapons, forced a woman from her car in Mountain View, about 35 miles south of San Francisco on Sunday. He drove the city and stole a second woman's car before stopping and firing into the street as people dived for cover.

Police were called and the first on the scene, James Guelfi, was shot in the head as he got out of his car. Other officers fired back, and witnesses said the gunfight lasted up to 25 minutes, with the man reloading his weapons several times until he was shot.

Mr Guelfi died yesterday at San Francisco General Hospital. A second policeman and a bystander were seriously wounded and a third lightly injured.

Tradition at stake as LA becomes vampire heartland

BY GILES WHITTELL

IN A thinly veiled snub to Transylvania, the traditional East European home of Count Dracula, a New York parapsychologist has declared Los Angeles to be the vampire capital of the world.

There are 36 real human bloodsuckers in the Southern Californian metropolis, according to Stephen Kaplan of the Vampire Research Centre in Elmhurst, New York, who says vampires are physically addicted to human blood, derive sexual pleasure from drinking it and believe it will prolong their lives.

Mr Kaplan reassured jittery Americans, about to see the film *Interview*

With *The Vampire*, that "most vampires are very pleasant individuals and they require only a few ounces of blood two or three times a week. Vampires are sexually charismatic, high-energy people - and that's LA people," he added in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*. "Besides, in California if you're unusual no one will notice you."

But if life imitates art, California's love-bite fetish is about to go nationwide. Some five millions Americans flocked to *Interview With The Vampire* on its opening weekend, suspending disbelief to watch Tom Cruise, the macho star of *Top Gun*, play an immortal bisexual with a fondness

for veins. The film took more than \$35 million (£21.4 million) in two days, the fourth strongest box-office opening ever, after *Jurassic Park* and the two *Batman* films.

Mr Kaplan has but faint praise for the latest blockbuster. He does not believe in vampires that change into bats and cannot die except from a stake through the heart. However, he also admits to being upset at not receiving an invitation to the premiere.

Where the parapsychologist sticks out his neck is in identifying California as having the world's largest concentration of vampires, which traditionally were allergic to the sun. His finding may reflect the discovery of a cure for the rare blood disease porphyria,

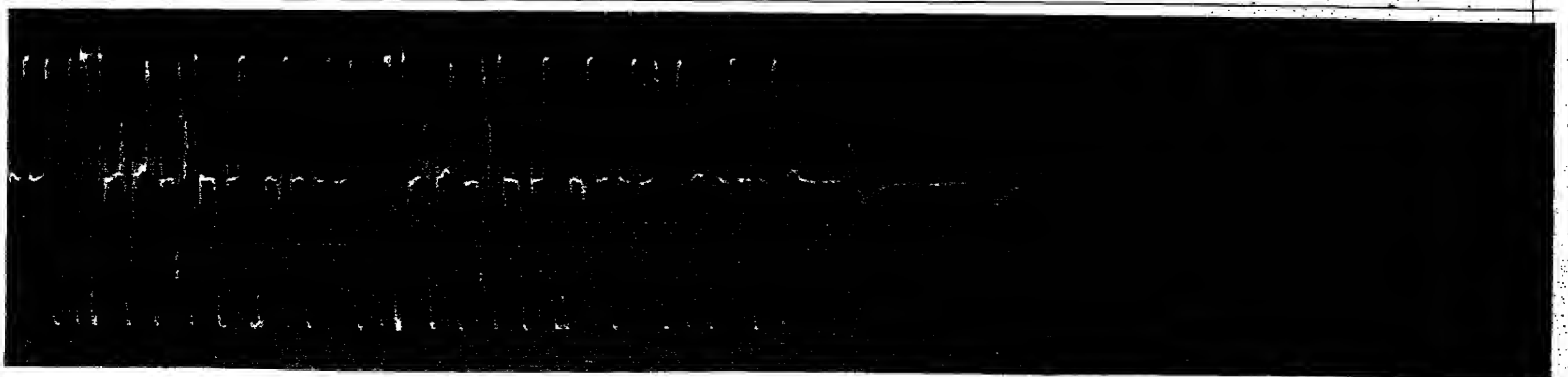
whose victims could be horribly disfigured by exposure to the sun and which for many years was medical science's best explanation of the vampire myth.

Film directors and makers of video games are on notice that the goriest excesses of their imaginations have been imitated in real life, however. In 1988, when three boys admitted licking the blood off their hands as they beat a vagrant to death in Minnesota, they cited the vampire film *The Lost Boys* as their inspiration.

Arne Rice, author of the book on which *Interview With The Vampire* is based, rejects the notion that her creation could inspire such crimes. "I think the vampire is a romantic, enthralling image," she says.



Christopher Lee as the Transylvanian Dracula



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Peace deal halted as Angolan offensive drives back rebels

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Angolan government yesterday continued its campaign to force Unita rebels out of its urban strongholds as delegates from both sides arrived in Zambia to sign a peace deal that appeared to be on the verge of collapse.

A United Nations official said yesterday that the two sides, which had arrived in a belligerent mood, had put off signing the agreement until an unspecified date.

General João de Matos, the Angolan army's chief of staff, was quoted yesterday in *Journal de Angola* as saying: "We are at war and the EAA [Angolan armed forces] will continue to fight Unita wherever they are." Engilio Muvumba, General Secretary of the rebel movement, on arrival in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, accused Lusanda of violating the peace pact, which was due to be signed today.

Only one town, Uige, is still being held by Unita after government successes. Angolan state radio claimed yesterday that the army had taken

control of Mbanza Congo, the rebels' last bastion in the north. This came after the fall of Huambo, which contained Unita's headquarters, over the weekend.

Three weeks ago both sides initialled a peace protocol, paving the way for today's planned signing ceremony. Several other such deals have collapsed since the 19-year civil war, because both sides have tried to seize land for use in later negotiations.

Although international sympathy for Jonas Savimbi, Unita's leader, is slim because he took his troops back to the bush rather than accept defeat in the 1991 elections, America yesterday told the Angolan government to halt its offensive.

In a lightning visit to Lusaka, George Moose, the Under Secretary of State for African affairs, said: "The US government is deeply concerned by the continuing government offensives. We strongly support the urgent call by the United Nations for an immediate

cessation of hostilities by both parties to the conflict."

One million people are believed to have died in Angola's civil war. Hundreds of thousands more have been made homeless in a country which suffers from under-population and has vast oil, diamond and agricultural resources. Unita's control of a large part of the diamond fields in the north financed its guerrilla war until earlier this year, when the army forced the rebels out with the help of South African mercenaries.

The postponement came as Southern African leaders, including President Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Mandela of South Africa, assembled in Lusaka to witness the ceremony. Earlier, they said that they would use the gathering to explore alternatives if the deal was not signed. This may include recent resolutions at the Franco-African meeting in Biarritz to establish an African peace-keeping force that would police a ceasefire.



A woman washes her child in a camp which houses 30,000 Angolan refugees near Caxito, northeast of Luanda

Police chief in Japan warns of rising crime

Tokyo: Japan's top police official gave an unprecedented warning yesterday that crime was threatening the "foundation of public order" in the nation, reputedly one of the world's safest countries.

Takaji Kunimatsu delivered the warning in response to a wave of random crime as well as statistics showing armoured car robberies and gun seizures were at record levels. Police believe economic recession, gun smuggling and, ironically, the dwindling power of the Yakuza gangs are behind the violence. (Reuters)

Crash report

Peking: Mechanical negligence was blamed for China's worst air disaster, when a China Northwest Airlines plane crashed in June near the city of Xian, killing all 160 people on board. Five mechanics have been charged. (AFP)

Aid cut plea

Kigali: Faustin Twagiramungu, the Rwandan Prime Minister, wants the UN and aid agencies to scale down or cut off aid to force an estimated two million mainly Hutu refugees on the Zaire border to return home. (Reuters)

Rebel warning

Phnom Penh: The Khmer Rouge warned Westerners, especially citizens of America, France and Australia, not to risk their lives by working in Cambodia. At least 150 foreign private organisations now operate in the country. (Reuters)

Tree break

New York: Ethan Frankel, 24, a suicidal young man who jumped off a 17-storey Greenwich Village building, survived after hitting two tree branches before landing on a car, police said. He is in a critical condition in hospital. (AP)

Platypus killer

Hobart: A killer fungus is affecting the platypus, one of Australia's best loved but most mysterious animals. So far the fungus, identified in 1972 as *Mucor amphibiorum*, which grows in soil, has only killed stocks in Tasmania. (Reuters)

Mandela accuses officers of war against ANC

Police 'rough up' Pretoria minister

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG

TENSION between the South African police and the country's new black-dominated governments continues to grow, despite the personal intervention of President Mandela.

The police, who for 40 years were used to enforce apartheid, retain their racist attitude towards black people. The latest to suffer at their hands was Daniel Mofokeng, a provincial minister in the Johannesburg region, who claims he was roughed up by police in the wake of widespread crowd trouble at a pop concert at the weekend. Mr Mofokeng, Minister for Local Government and Housing in the Pretoria Witwatersrand and Vereeniging province,



Mufandi: arrested for double-parking

has laid charges against the police. The incident was the subject of a meeting yesterday between Jesse Duarte, the Witwatersrand Police Minister, and Lieutenant-General Koos Calitz, the senior police

man on the Witwatersrand. The commissioner assured the minister that a full investigation would be conducted into the incident and the findings would be submitted to Klaus von Lieres und Wilkau, who is the Witwatersrand Attorney-General.

Mrs Duarte was already angered by what appeared to be a deliberate campaign of non-co-operation by the police after senior policemen failed to keep appointments at policy meetings.

A statement after yesterday's meeting in Pretoria said bluntly: "With regard to the issue of the non-attendance of meetings by police officers, the meeting agreed to certain procedures to ensure that this will not occur in the future. General Calitz assured the minister that this was not due to any

lack of respect or discourteousness on the part of the police."

Lack of respect and discourtesy was exactly what Sydney Mufandi, the Police Minister in Mr Mandela's Cabinet, complained about when traffic police carted him off to the police station after he had double-parked outside a branch of Kentucky Fried Chicken in Pretoria.

Mr Mandela was urged to involve himself in the various disputes and last week had a three-hour meeting with senior police generals. He told them that he believed the police were still conducting a war against the ANC.

After the meeting, however, he said: "We have emerged from the meeting closer to one another. My respect for them has deepened and my suspicions have been addressed."

Renamo accused of plotting to seize Beira after poll setbacks

By MICHAEL HAMILYN

MOZAMBIQUE'S former rebels are preparing to occupy Beira, the country's main port and second city, as well as another town, because they appear to be losing the first democratic elections, a government official said yesterday.

"It seems that demobilised soldiers of Renamo are returning to their bases with arms, while armed groups have been spotted around Nampula," Alfredo Gamito, Governor of the northern Nampula province, said.

Renamo was also planning to occupy Beira, the stronghold of Alfonso Dhlakama, leader of the former rebels, sources in the ruling Frelimo alleged. Yesterday Mr Dhlakama rejected allegations that he was preparing to

return to war. "It's a disinformation campaign by the Frelimo party," Mr Dhlakama said. "I don't know if (President) Chissano is behind this, but I think Frelimo is afraid because, despite fraud in the elections, Renamo has won a strong position in parliament."

With more than three-quarters of the vote counted, the latest results from the electoral commission put President Chissano at 55 per cent of the vote in the presidential poll, with Mr Dhlakama at 33 per cent.

The commission said yesterday that final results would be announced tomorrow, almost three weeks after the polls opened for three days of voting last month.

Frelimo, which has ruled the country since independence from Portugal in 1975,

is leading in parliamentary elections, with 46 per cent of votes against Renamo's 37 per cent.

Colonel Pier Segala, chairman of the United Nations-supervised Ceasefire Commission, said he had had no evidence of troop movements by either side, despite reports of arms caches found in the bush. He also said that Renamo lacked the military capability to fight another war. Colonel Segala said that the demobilisation of about 70,000 men on both sides had been successfully completed.

However, 21 people were killed last week when a police lorry, carrying weapons seized from a suspected Renamo cache, hit a landmine near an area controlled by the former rebels in the centre of the country, according to state radio.

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Many people will happily take a chance on the lottery; the professional gambler seeks higher stakes

Taking a risk with tigers

Getting served in our local shops yesterday took twice as long as usual: they were all clogged up with people I'd never seen before queuing for lottery tickets, dithering over how to fill them in and rustily engaging in that forgotten pastime, neighbourly gossip. Favourite topics for the day appeared to be as follows: domestic animals, one's passion for gambling, one's hitherto unsuspected passion for the housekeeping money, and threats to same from the former; and finally, how shocking it is that they're still letting that casino man in Kent keep his zoos open despite all the keepers his tigers have eaten.

The bad-mouthing of John Aspinall seemed a bit hard, to me, since he and the lottery tyros have so much in common. His two great passions in life are also animals and gambling. Naturally, having always had a good deal more housekeeping money to blow, he goes for bigger animals and bigger stakes. That's how gamblers are: when little thrills no longer satisfy, they

go for bigger ones. (Guardians of the domestic purse, beware! Who knows what recklessness you may be embarking on? From a Pekinese and a lottery ticket, where next?)

To talk of gambling in the context of Trevor Smith's horrible death in the tiger enclosure at Howlets Zoo is to belittle neither that disaster nor the sincerity of his employer's conservation crusade. The keepers there all stress that they are not required to enter the cages of dangerous animals, but that they choose to do so. No matter how well they know their animals, they also know that every time they cross that threshold they are taking a gamble. And that's how they like to live their lives, with their beloved wild animals and an element of risk. You may see it as a kind of craziness or as a sort of courageous humility.

They and their boss believe in treating their animals as

"honoured guests" and in forming respectful, but to my pusillanimous mind terrifyingly close, relationships with them. (You wouldn't catch me in a cage with anything bigger than a llama.) Mr

Smith, who was bored to tears with his former humdrum job as a postman, felt so strongly about this that he often said he would leave Howlets if anyone stopped him fraternising with his tigers on their side of the fence.

Paradoxically, this approach seems to make the animals go on behaving more like wild animals than the arm's-length-plus-a-long-stick approach of most zoos. Observers such as Dian Fossey, the late gorilla expert, say the inmates of the Aspinall animal houses, are in this

respect quite remarkable. They can be released into the wild more readily than animals from other zoos because to all intents and purposes they still are wild.

Animal protection organisations such as Virginia McKenna's Zoocheck are pretty disapproving of most zoos but enthuse about Howlets and Port Lympne. The RSPCA, whose officials confront themselves to see the world through animal eyes, once reported that if you are a tiger or a chimpanzee these establishments are better than the Ritz. If you are a visiting toddler on the other hand, you might feel less enthusiastic: the animals get as much freedom as is legally feasible, but under Aspinall rules small children are

clapped into restrictive harnesses before they are allowed on the premises.

These places are not really zoos but menageries in the old tradition of animal collections held by wealthy men. Zoos exist for the entertainment and enlightenment of their visitors. Menageries exist for the enjoyment of their owners and their inmates, and in this case the owner categorically prefers animals to people. He goes on preferring them, despite the fact that he and several members of his family bear many scars from occasions when the animals reciprocated in less loving style. The tiger toothmarks on John Aspinall's neck, and the deep scratches on his wife's arms, are worn with a degree of pride reminiscent of the big-game hunter's attitude to his trophies.

I think it quite likely that in an earlier age, when such animals were plentiful, big-game hunters are exactly what

the Aspinalls and many of the keepers in their menageries would have been. Hunters have always been both gamblers and animal-lovers and still are, although I suppose you'd never convince the anti-hunting brigade. These days, the sort of enterprise in which Trevor Smith met his end is one of a limited number of ways in which those driven by such passions may satisfy them. Others of a similar bent have simply taken to racing driving or bungee jumping instead.

By the time I got home with my three tins of Whiskas (but no lottery tickets), I was sure that in the name of freedom to take risks the casino man should be allowed to keep his zoos open. The cat greeted me ecstatically, but then bit me on the ankle when I temporarily mislaid the tin-opener. And do you know, I caught myself cravenly apologising to the impatient creature before reflecting that, for all their faults, even the nastiest people I know have never bitten me.



MARGOT NORMAN

A big hand for Dora's ladies

A 24-strong
Bulgarianfemale choir, due
to tour here, has
been creating a
stir, reports

Joanna Pitman

Concert promoters do not normally lunge for the chequebook when offered a booking with a choir of 24 stout Bulgarian dames, most of them on the wrong side of middle age, who sing incomprehensible lyrics in strange nasal harmonies, and who labour under the disastrous name of The Bulgarian State Radio and Television Female Vocal Choir.

But then concert promoters here do not know much about these formidable representatives of Bulgarian woman-kind, who have toured America to such acclaim that they were invited on to Larry King's show, were unambiguously embraced by the pop-music fraternity, received praise in the press wherever they went, and managed to sell 200,000 copies of an album of folk songs which rejoices in the marginally happier title of *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*. Mysterious indeed. But all is to be revealed as the BSRTFVC tours Britain this week, singing in Cambridge, Bristol, Nottingham, and Manchester. On Wednesday night they will be found at the Festival Hall in London, clambering into their multi-coloured, multilayered folk costumes for a final gig.

Stocky grandmothers they may be, but the moment they open their mouths these women have the power to silence even the most audacious sniggerers. The sounds emerge not from the diaphragm, but straight from the throat, with the impact of a heavy-metal band. The BSRTFVC expects to fill the Festival Hall unannounced, and will probably be audible in the Barbican to boot.

Novelty is evidently an element of their popularity, as massed harmonising female voices are seldom found in the pop charts, and music without a pounding beat is rarer still. This lot sing with a fierce concentration, as though undertaking an important state duty with extreme enjoyment. Their songs have clear forceful melodies, and the complexity of their dance rhythms seems to have mesmerised devotees across the United States.

Robert Plant, the Grateful Dead and Ten Thousand Maniacs have used BSRTFVC music on tour as opening material. George Harrison has been photographed hugging members of the choir, and Linda Ronstadt and Jerry Garcia have admitted to being dedicated followers.

With such endorsements



Members of the Bulgarian State Radio and Television Female Vocal Choir, whose diamond-hard voices "have the impact of a heavy-metal band"

from eminent musical personages, and a new album, *Ritual*, to promote, record producers are hoping that the Bulgarians will repeat the unexpected success of the Gregorian chanters and win a berth in the top ten, maybe even a slot on *Top of the Pops*. Dora Hristova, choir mistress and conductor, is beside herself with excitement at the prospect of a UK tour. "We've been very pleased with our reception in America and

They silence
the most
audacious
sniggerers

we've just had a few days in Italy. The applause is always fantastic. I am very proud of my choir."

As semi-official emissaries of the state, Dora and her ladies have the equivalent status in Bulgaria of one of our leading orchestras. They live on state pensions — about £33 a month — and in foreign lands have developed an appetite for shopping to rival any member of the Marcos family.

They set off from Sofia over a month ago with knapsacks bulging with tins of pilchards and sacks of dried food. These have provided the daily rations for their eight weeks on tour, so that they can save their substantial daily allowance for higher priority items.

Shoppers in Oxford Street this week may come across a phalanx of apple-cheeked Bul-

garians sweeping through the stores, exuberantly strapping up frilly and brightly-coloured acrylics. They have bought neon green and fuchsia, pimento and purple and a conjunction of mandarin orange and crimson. These are not women to let colours scare them. They snap up all the gewgaws that come into their line of vision: sequined jerseys, spangled blouses, and enough gold lycra to upholster an entire Madonna European tour.

"They each bought half a dozen pairs of shoes in the States. They buy up all the bright, trendy gear they can get their hands on," says Darryn Kahn, their tour manager. "They love to do their hair in fancy styles and they make themselves up a lot. It's hard to get bright hair colour and lipsticks where they come from."

Most of the singers were born in rural parts of the country, and were talent-spotted at local singing competitions or in village choirs. Now based in Sofia, these emotive voices from the valleys have won a reputation as "the Welsh of Eastern Europe".

The BSRTFVC has been suddenly catapulted to stardom. "Of course we are recognised in the streets at home. People ask for our autographs now," explains Dora.

Her greatest headache these days is dealing with the long list of applicants for audition and weeding out those who are in it for the shopping opportunities. With their new-found European vogue, their fame will no doubt spread through Eastern Europe — and, with it, word of the wonders of C&A.

A new American film is being marketed on the Internet

Stars back in sci-fi

A PAIR of well-earned space adventurers go barreling into another galaxy where they discover: 1. a population of slaves labouring under what sounds like a genetic speech impediment but turns out to be an ancient Egyptian language; 2. a noble maiden in need of saving; and 3. an evil potentate with glowing eyes, ambiguous sexuality and a terrific line in evening gowns.

Many explosions later, they win. According to conventional Hollywood wisdom the film *StarGate*, starring Kurt Russell, James Spader and Jaye Davidson (late of *The Crying Game*, now the evil sun god, Ra), was headed for a cinematic black hole.

When George Lucas' *Star Wars* epics fell out of fashion in the 1980s, traditional sci-fi appeared doomed. Then real space exploration apparently proved there was not much out there after all, at least nothing you could zap with a ray gun. But defying the predictions of mere earthlings, *StarGate* became an instant cult film when it was released for Halloween, breaking all records for an autumn release by earning nearly \$17 million (£0.7 million) in its first weekend. The film opens in the United Kingdom next month.

What *Dances With Wolves* did for the Western, *StarGate* is now doing for science fiction, breaching new life into a genre whose possibilities appeared all but exhausted.

The approach of the millennium has also helped to stir interest in futuristic fantasy, and a slew of sci-fi is now on the horizon. Sylvester Stallone is due to star in the film of *Judge Dredd*, another version of *Star Wars* is in the works and Marlon Brando is reported to have accepted the lead in a remake of *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

Next Friday sees the release of *Star Trek: Generations*, the seventh *Star Trek* movie and perhaps the most enduring proof that there are some things from outer space you just cannot kill. The *Trek* cult, backed by conventions, books, television and film, is plainly immortal.

By contrast, *StarGate* landed without pedigree, television tie-ins, supporting books, top-name stars or even heavy advertising. Instead its makers have relied, appropriately enough, on science and technology to transform a small film into a cult hit. Taking a cue from *Jurassic Park*, the movie uses digital imaging and other computer techniques to create a welter of special effects.

But the promoters, in what may be the most significant portent for the industry, have also harnessed new technology to market the film directly to personal computer users. By making a trailer for *StarGate* available online and arranging a special tie-in with the information network CompuServe, Gerry Rich, head of MGM/UA marketing, tapped into the very section of the population most likely to respond. "It's a captive audience of 20 million home computer users," Mr Rich told the *Los Angeles Times*.

THE EFFECT was dramatic. Within hours of the film's release, *StarGate* was being avidly discussed on the Internet, as home computer buffs rushed to their bulletin boards to pass comment (usually favourable).

Word of modern, it seems, may be replacing word of mouth as the most reliable way to ensure that a film takes flight, while a new parade of sci-fi heroes prepares to boldly go where others have gone before.



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Eastern meditation is helping America's chronically sick

A breath of life and hope

Ian Robertson
meets the man
who has adapted
Buddhist
practices with
startling results



Jon Kabat-Zinn: Finding evidence to back his hunch

Peter was in hospital for the first time in his life. The chest pains which had brought him there had been diagnosed as a heart attack, and instead of going back home as he expected, he found himself languishing in the coronary care ward.

It seemed the final straw: even before this his job had been on the line and his marriage on the rocks. Now his mind was a turmoil of fears and regrets. He could concentrate on nothing and his mind just spun like a top. Though he had started an exercise programme under the physiotherapist's supervision, he still could not stop his thoughts racing, and he often built himself up to a full panic, bringing on palpitations and even greater anxiety.

At the University of Massachusetts Hospital and Medical School, people like Peter can learn to build up mental fitness as well as physical stamina following major illness. In the heart of this temple of high-tech medicine, Professor Jon Kabat-Zinn's Stress Reduction Clinic teaches patients how to help their own recovery through ancient meditation practices which he has adapted for use in modern medicine.

A video guiding patients through his methods is played to all wards seven times a day on the hospital television service, a pattern repeated in hundreds of hospitals throughout North America.

"Senior doctors used to talk to me about how there was nothing they could do with 80 per cent of their out-patients who kept coming back with chronic physical problems," Professor Kabat-Zinn says. "So I eventually said to them, 'What about something to mobilise the patients' own resources in parallel with the medical system?' They said great, so I wrote the proposal and the Stress Reduction Clinic started in 1979."

Professor Kabat-Zinn is a scientist and a student of Buddhist thought: he has a PhD in molecular biology from Massachusetts Institute



Buddhist and yogic methods can halve levels of pain and anxiety in patients with illnesses ranging from cancer to diabetes and ulcerative colitis

of Technology, and was head of the Cambridge-Harvard Zen Center in the Seventies. He believed that Buddhist and yogic practices of mental training could be applied to healthcare, and 20 years later he has produced the scientific evidence to back up this hunch. He has published articles in top American medical journals showing how methods of meditation and yoga can produce a long-lasting reduction in chronic pain and stress in severely physically ill patients.

His patients have been sick for an average of seven years when he sees them, and half of them show a greater than 50 per cent reduction in their pain as a result of the training. Levels of depression and anxiety are also more than halved. Their illnesses range from heart disease to cancer, and from diabetes to ulcerative colitis.

Recently, Professor Kabat-Zinn has shown how simple meditation instructions played to patients receiving treatment for psoriasis in an ultra-violet light booth produce a much more effective clearing of the

skin condition than the treatment with no meditation instructions.

"Patients who come to hospital are under huge stress, which compounds their illness," the professor says. "Often they will panic and run to the hospital when they notice some change in their condition. This is a big burden on medical staff. We teach these people to develop an intimacy and familiarity with their own bodies and minds. This leads to a greater confidence to learn from their symptoms and to begin to self-regulate them."

This familiarity is fostered by methods of yoga and by "mindfulness" meditation training. To be mindful means cultivating the ability to attend to the moment rather than dwelling in the past or anticipating the future. It means pulling back one's attention from the thought or emotion to a simple detached awareness of the moment. The

procedure is devoid of any religious or mystical overtones. In practical terms, it begins with learning to focus attention on the breath and bring back attention to the breathing when it wanders; Professor

Kabat-Zinn has produced audio and videotapes of his methods. He also uses some standard yoga procedures.

"I am not a Buddhist," he says. "I am a student of Buddhist teaching. I'm trying to develop a vocabulary of meditation which makes sense to my patients. My question for people is simply: 'How awake are you for your life? It has nothing to do with Buddhism.'"

In his recently published book *Mindfulness Meditation for Everyday Life*, he presents an elegant and lucid case for mindfulness practices to become accepted as being as important for normal well-being as are physical exercise or a low-fat diet.

In this country I and my colleagues at the MRC Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge have been funded by the Stroke Association to study whether mindfulness training methods can help stroke victims to recover. We find that these mainly elderly patients take to the training with great enthusiasm. Early next year we plan to carry out a large government-funded study of these methods in London, with head-injured people who show serious concentration difficulties.

You know, this was once radical, now it's mainstream," Professor Kabat-Zinn says. "There are now more than 40 eight-week out-patient stress reduction programmes in the States which we have spawned — and it's mostly mainstream physicians who are pushing for their introduction."

Some of America's most eminent young physicians have now been through his training programme. The 8th-century Indian sage Padmasambhava made a

prophecy to the effect: "When the iron eagle flies and horses run on wheels, the Tibetan people will be scattered over the earth and the dharma [Buddhist teaching] will go to the land of the red man [the West]." It has certainly arrived squarely at the heart of America's medical care system — not as yet another fad, but as a scientifically validated approach to ill-health which may prove as revolutionary as the discovery of penicillin.

● Mindfulness Meditation for Everyday Life is published by Plaitus (£8.99). The mindfulness training tapes are available from an order form in Professor Kabat-Zinn's book.

Natural and green doesn't mean safe

Herbal medicines may be legal but they still should be treated with caution. **Jeremy Laurance** reports

Swallowers of ginseng and drinkers of feverfew can relax. Herbal remedies have been saved. A threat by the Department of Health to implement a ruling of the European Commission that would have outlawed most herbal medicines sold in Britain was suddenly lifted last week.

But are herbal remedies safe to take? The health department's decision means we have no means of knowing. Some have powerful effects and have caused serious reactions and even deaths. Yet their production and sale will now continue unimpeded.

The ruling by the EC, which takes effect from January, would have put herbal remedies on the same footing as all pharmaceutical drugs, requiring manufacturers to obtain product licences issued by the Medicines Control Agency after production of detailed evidence on safety and efficacy. The licences cost £84,000 each, plus the cost of running the necessary trials, and herbal manufacturers warned they would be driven out of business.

After a change of heart by health ministers, no doubt mindful of the one in four of the population who say they have consulted an alternative practitioner, legal advisers at the health department found a way round the ruling, which referred only to products which are "industrially produced". The Government announced last Friday that it had decided that herbal products were made by traditional, not industrial, processes.

By this sleight of hand, herbal manufacturers have been set free to cash in on the booming demand for their products. Sales of herbal medicines have grown by 70 per cent over the past five years, faster than in any other European country, and are set to continue rising, according to a study by the market research group, Datamonitor.

Herbal medicines are regarded as kinder and more natural than orthodox drugs and appeal to those who take a holistic view of health. The rapid growth is attributed to increasing disenchantment with orthodox medicine. Most

users are the "worried well" — female, middle-aged and middle-class — compared with the typical GP's patients who are very young or very old and working class.

However, the chemical constituents of herbal remedies can be as powerful as pharmaceutical drugs. A series of case reports in the medical journals have highlighted the risks. A study in *The Lancet* described 33 women who suffered total kidney failure and required dialysis or transplantation after taking a slimming treatment in Belgium that contained Chinese herbs.

The National Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital, London, which is monitoring cases of poisoning with Chinese herbs, recorded the death of a 28-year-old woman from acute liver failure after taking a herbal mixture for eczema. Further cases have since come to light, according to the unit, which is to publish its findings.

Dr Simon Wessely, consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley hospital, London, says: "Herbal remedies are often taken for anxiety and depression and many have been shown to act directly on the same receptors in the brain which are targeted by Valium. We should stop pretending that these remedies are a different category of compound from pharmaceutical drugs. Being green and natural doesn't make them safe."

Herbal manufacturers say it would be uneconomical to run trials of their products because they cannot patent them and recover the costs. Feverfew, for example, a remedy for migraine, grows wild and can be cultivated by anyone.

However, Dr Wessely, who is studying the frequency with which herbal remedies are used by psychiatric patients, believes the work should be done by academic departments. "The health department is making an exception for herbal medicines and I don't see why an exception should be made. If they work, they must be drugs and if they are drugs, they must have side effects. The drug that has no side effects doesn't exist."

Quality
Ginseng



Sales of herbal remedies have risen 70 per cent

'Anxiety and depression have been halved'

Cure that inflames opinion

IT SEEMS a simple enough question: if you have a sore throat, should you take a course of antibiotics? But, despite all the advances in medicine, we still don't know the answer. And it isn't simply an academic argument. Huge amounts of money are spent each year on antibiotics for sore throats — some say unnecessarily. On the other hand, there are serious illnesses which can follow untreated bacterial infections of the throat, such as sinusitis, rheumatic fever, and glomerulonephritis, a form of kidney inflammation. What does the current evidence tell us?

Every medical student knows that rheumatic fever often follows a streptococcal

throat infection, but the evidence which supports the association is old, coming from observations on soldiers during the Second World War. In fact, the prevalence of rheumatic fever has been falling sharply in developing countries since the turn of the century — long before antibiotics were discovered. Glomerulonephritis following bacterial throat infections is very rare: a GP has a one in five chance of ever seeing either of these conditions in a lifetime's practice.

Sinus and ear infections also occur, but it is not clear that treating the sore throat with antibiotics will stop these complications occurring. Anyway, most patients with a sore throat never see their doctor.

On the other hand, half the swabs taken from patients' inflamed throats will show bacterial contamination, so it is not unreasonable to consider treatment with antibiotics

although the presence of the bacteria doesn't necessarily mean that it caused the infection. And just because complications such as rheumatic fever are rare doesn't mean we shouldn't treat the precipitating cause, especially when the treatment is cheap and safe, like penicillin.

Having a sore throat is unpleasant, and several studies have shown that the duration of symptoms can be shortened by up to two days if antibiotics are used. People often go to their doctor specifically for antibiotics on the grounds that the last time they had a sore throat the treatment worked.

MANY doctors prescribe for "social" reasons — for example, when a family is about to go on holiday, and one of the children gets a bad throat, or when a student is about to take an important exam. In these cases, it is probably more important to maintain good relationships by giving patients what they want.

But, once again, the gold standard of evidence — the randomised controlled trial looking at whether routine use of antibiotics saves time off school or work — is lacking. Should patients with sore throats be given antibiotics routinely? The answer is we don't know.

● The author is a GP in Exeter.

Fashion: Iain R. Webb on how this year's top student found success

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Scotland's experience shows that, with care, trials on television need not be trials by television, writes Magnus Linklater

Court on camera: justice done

Television justice comes to our living-rooms this Friday, with the screening of a Scottish murder trial on BBC 2 and a five-part series which takes the viewer to the heart of the legal system — on camera. The result is high drama. Anyone who thought this would be a dreary chronicle of courtroom procedure, hedged around by legal restrictions, is proved wrong. Watching the face of the accused as the jury's verdict is pronounced renders the Perry Mason version of justice irrelevant. This is for real.

The first surprise is the latitude allowed to the television cameras. Their positions are fixed, but they are allowed to play on the faces of advocates, witnesses, the judge, and above all the man in the dock, as evidence is examined and the case builds up. Outside, the defence counsel, Gordon Jackson QC, is interviewed about the line he is taking and how he feels the case is going. Conversations between the man accused of murder,

Andy Deacons, and his solicitor, Callum Ross, are filmed as they wait for the verdict. We are even allowed to go back to the jail where Deacons changes out of his courtroom clothes into prison dress.

The high point is undoubtedly the summing-up speech that Jackson makes on behalf of his client. This 1993 case, known at the time as the Loan Path murder, hinged largely on a watch, found beside the body of a man who had been battered to death on a footpath in the West Lothian town of Livingston. It was the only concrete evidence linking Deacons to the scene of the crime, and Jackson is scathing as he dissects the Crown's reliance upon it.

This is a Rumpole in the making, with his scraggy wig tilted uneasily over lugubrious features, only the

eyes registering disbelief or resignation as a point is scored for the prosecution.

Even if the watch belonged to Deacons, asks Jackson, what does that prove? He ponders the point. "So he was there — maybe. So he saw what happened — maybe. So he stopped other people doing it and won't tell us — maybe. I'm making it up as I go along. I make no bones about that. My theory is as good as anyone's. But..." suddenly he turns serious, "we're talking about proving a person committed a murder. It is some huge jump, that."

I won't jump the result, though since the case has been disposed of, it is by now well-known in Scotland. But as we follow Deacons down the corridor to hear his fate at the hands of the jury, the tension is

enormous. It seemed to me that despite the inevitable editing process, which has reduced a four-day trial to three-quarters of an hour of television, the balance of evidence has been fairly presented. The trial judge, Lord Stephenson, has pronounced himself happy with it, and Jackson says he would be prepared to do it again. Nick Catliff, the BBC producer, who spent more than two years on this project, is pleased with what has been achieved.

Above all, the man whose decision set this whole process in train, is "reassured" by what he has seen. Lord Hope, who as Lord President and Lord Justice General in Scotland began exploring the possibility of allowing cameras into court some five years ago, believes the rules he drew up have worked. This

was a decision that could not have been taken in England, where cameras are specifically banned by statute under the 1925 Criminal Justice Act. There is no such restriction under Scotland's separate system. Lord Hope, realising that televised justice was inevitable sooner or later, decided to start drawing up guidelines which would allow proceedings to be filmed but would still, in his words, "preserve the interests of justice".

He was helped by the intimacy of Scotland's justice system. Most people around the Court of Session know each other fairly well. A few discreet meetings here and there established that Hope's fellow judges were mainly in favour of the idea. Rules were discussed, refined and then incorporated into the Lord President's published

volume of "practices". Thereafter it was up to the trial judge to ensure that the presence of cameras did not interfere with the smooth running of the court. A BBC Scotland documentary made the first breakthrough, with the filming of a sheriff court trial of a man accused of stealing a bus. But this was the first televised high court case, and the first for murder.

The conditions were tough: live filming is not allowed, if Lord Hope has anything to do with it, never will be allowed. Witnesses must give their approval, and are allowed a 24-hour "cooling off" period, during which they can change their minds. All 15 members of the jury must agree to be filmed if the cameras are to show their faces. In the Deacons case, this permission was withheld.

Finally, the presiding judge must be allowed to see and approve the finished product. This was a hard concession for the BBC to make, but in the end it has turned out well. Lord Hope himself made several alterations, all in the interest of explaining procedures to the viewer.

The result is a good example of co-operation between an enlightened system and a sensible television team. Each side seems to have appreciated the other's position. As Lord Hope said: "It would be no good allowing proceedings to be filmed if nobody wanted to see the result." Equally, Catliff, though he has had many frustrations because of the guidelines, concedes that in Lord Hope's position he would probably have done the same.

Only the accused, Andy Deacons, has expressed some misgivings in retrospect. But the reasons for that will only become apparent as the denouement of Friday's programme emerges.

German has a word for it

Brecht was not just lying — he was stealing other people's lies

I don't care much for people who, when writing their *Who's Who* entry, come to the section for "recreations" and put funny things (well, they think they are funny, though nobody else does). But my resolve wavers very slightly each year, when I receive the form, and I am tempted yet again, I do not succumb, but if I did, I know what I would write as my favourite recreation: *Schadenfreude*.

The German-English dictionary gives "malicious pleasure, gloating"; that will do, but it doesn't really take in the nuances of that wicked but delightful word. I say delightful, but I would not wish you to think that I spend my leisure hours waiting for stout gentlemen with immaculately brushed top hats to step on banana skins and fall over. I can, just about encompass in my *Schadenfreude* such matters as the catching out

Do you remember Bertolt Brecht? He is a forgotten figure, I am glad to say, but from time to time one of his plays is put on in London with little success. (Though no doubt Michael Billington can still find profound meanings in them.) When I was first a theatre critic, Brecht was all the rage in the theatre, and I blushed to remember that even I was taken in — taken in, that is, by some of the plays (one or two were actually good). But he was hailed, not only as one of the greatest playwrights in history, but as the avatar of glorious communism: he died not long before his company had come to London, and only three years after the death of Stalin. Those were the days!

Didactic art has to be handled with care: one season's masterpieces demonstrating the wickedness of capitalism tend to disappear the next time round. Indeed, the Fifties and the Sixties were awash with such stuff, and it went on even longer and deeper, do you remember Livingstone's rule over London? The GLC barred musi-

Bernard Levin

cians from the South Bank concert halls for political reasons, and mounted a giant exhibition of Stalinism in the Festival Hall; when someone offered, at no cost to the hall, to show a contrary version of the Soviet paradise, it was refused, and it was made clear that no serious or general criticism of the Soviet Union would be permitted on GLC premises. No wonder I was proud to coin the term "fascist Left". (Incidentally, has Livingstone ever apologised?)

Now what is all this chatter about, and where does *Schadenfreude* come in, or Bertolt Brecht, let alone Ken Livingstone? The story comes in with a book, published by HarperCollins, robustly entitled *The Life and Lies of Bertolt Brecht: the dullest leaves lie to the imagination*, and although the book has been criticised for over-doing the awfulness of Brecht, there is quite enough left over to hang him high: Brecht, the mighty genius of theatre, the man who invented true drama, the man who was saluted as the world's

greatest playwright, the communist, realist, atheist — yea, Stalinist — was a plagiarist, a thief of others' work, a fraud ten times over and in a variety of capacities.

We learn that Brecht, with *The Threepenny Opera*, which really made him, took full credit for it, though only some 5 per cent of it was his own work. He didn't even think of the title, and when Professor Fugel, author of the debunking book, was asked whether Brecht wrote any major play unaided, the professor said: "The answer is no."

But there is better to come, and wonderful stuff it is. For instance, Brecht was skilful at



making contracts which excluded his collaborators from payments or shares in the royalties... Meanwhile, he became extremely rich, hiding his foreign royalties in Swiss bank accounts while living very comfortably as a member of the "privilegia" in communist East Germany... he had been a millionaire... the clothes that made him look poor had been expensively tailored to obtain that special down-at-heel Brechtian look. At the time of his death in 1956 he was preparing to buy himself a house in Switzerland...

But that, of course, leaves another and larger problem: it is the *Schadenfreude* and the suckers who did put their trust in princes. It wasn't just a smothered of denying that Brecht smacked the finest (and biggest) Havana: they would have found excuses. (It's his bad throat, you know.) It was

that he could not make up his mind whether Mr Levin was a fool or a knave, and concluded that I was both. What did the Tito-lovers think when they saw the inventory of the man who was supposed to be *sans peur et sans reproche* and found that the ascetic iron man had acquired (stolen, to use a slightly shorter word) cars, paintings, motor-boats, horses, yachts, jewellery, villas, orchards, a safari park, vineyards — and women of course? I cannot say, but I can speak for myself, and the words I speak all turn into one: *Schadenfreude*. Of course, the people who suffered under Tito's monumentally tyrannical rule knew very well how he lived and thrived and swindled, though they had enough sense not to mention it in public. But one of these days I shall write a book called *From Daily Worker to Morning Star and Back Again: Not Least with Your Memories of Khrushchev and How do you Like it Now to Say Nothing of What do you do with your Time?*

Useful stuff, this *Schadenfreude*: what would we do without it? Why, put it away until it is needed again. It will be, you'll see.

Thinking of it, a tiny — almost invisible — memory steals into my mind. Some time around 1960 I visited the Soviet Union, and saw the dreadful truth. (I was there after banned from the Empire for 30 years, but that is another story.) I came home and wrote about what I had seen, and I painted it as dark as it truly was. There was then — he is long dead — a Roman Catholic priest who was at the same time (don't ask me how) a regular journalist. He was notoriously left-wing, but I never knew just how left-wing until he sent a letter, for publication, in reply to my article. In which he said of my criticism of the Soviet Union

that he could not make up his mind whether Mr Levin was a fool or a knave, and concluded that I was both. What did the Tito-lovers think when they saw the inventory of the man who was supposed to be *sans peur et sans reproche* and found that the ascetic iron man had acquired (stolen, to use a slightly shorter word) cars, paintings, motor-boats, horses, yachts, jewellery, villas, orchards, a safari park, vineyards — and women of course? I cannot say, but I can speak for myself, and the words I speak all turn into one: *Schadenfreude*. Of course, the people who suffered under Tito's monumentally tyrannical rule knew very well how he lived and thrived and swindled, though they had enough sense not to mention it in public. But one of these days I shall write a book called *From Daily Worker to Morning Star and Back Again: Not Least with Your Memories of Khrushchev and How do you Like it Now to Say Nothing of What do you do with your Time?*

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Woodrow Wyatt offers Lord Nolan a few pointers

Cleaning up public life

On October 25, John Major set up a committee to examine standards in public life. He asked for a first report "covering the main areas of current concern" within six months. Thereafter the committee will remain "as a standing body to advise the government of the day". All can make submissions to the chairman, Lord Nolan, Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall. Here is mine.

First, abolish the Commons register of members' interests. Generally, standards were higher when MPs were in their honour to declare any interest they might have when raising a matter in the Commons or writing to a minister. There will always be those who are dishonourable and no amount of regulations will make them honourable. For them, a register offers a cloak of respectability.

Second, make firms of parliamentary lobbyists illegal. In 1990 Ian Greer admitted paying select committee members for asking questions and securing introductions to ministers. If a person or company seeks to influence Parliament in a worthy cause, numerous MPs will gladly help for nothing in the public interest.

The rise of professional lobbyists did much to corrupt both houses of the American Congress. The answer is not to pay MPs more, because the malefactors will become yet more greedy. Nor would it be sensible to prevent MPs having outside financial interests. Living solely in the boathouse of Westminster and otherwise talking mainly to party activists gives a distorted view of life in the practical world.

Third, members of the Nolan Committee should make a thorough study of the 1990 report of the investigation into House of Fraser Holdings by Henry Brooke, QC, and Hugh Graham Cazalet Aldous, FCA, the inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. There are to be found tales of the corruption of minds by honeyed, unverified words and a strange willingness of many on high to be glib. The neglect of professional standards in the media, compromised by presents and hospitality, was singularly culpable. Edmund Burke referred to the fourth estate as "more important than them all". He meant that,

through what they wrote and said, they had more influence on people's thinking than the other three estates: the Lords spiritual, the Lords temporal and the Commons.

Our free press and media are vital elements in the exposure of corruption and wrongdoing. But, in turn, they have a duty to report responsibly and fairly. The DTI Inspectorate of the press and media had not done so in connection with the Fayed brothers' affairs.

"Mohamed Fayed was telling lies about himself and his family to representatives of the Press, and once those stories were on a cutting file or in a press cuttings library they grew and multiplied without much further inquiry into their accuracy... Mohamed Fayed [succeeded] in 'gagging' the Press... A similar situation arose over Robert Maxwell, who was also condemned by a DTI report, and who stole £440 million from Mirror Group pensioners. Afraid of Mr Maxwell, few in the media dared to comment, though they knew what was going on.

Fourth, I hope the committee will record that despite current concerns, the standards of conduct in British public life are remarkably high by international standards. The very fact that public opinion in Britain is roused to near hysteria by a hint of corruption is proof that there is not much of it. But there is a danger that unfounded accusations will gain credence in the present atmosphere. There were grains of truth in many of the McCarthyite witch-hunts: but mostly the charges were like those pressed against witchcraft in Salem in the 1690s, when many reputations were irretrievably harmed and many innocents were killed.

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Who's cooking?

IT'S NOT easy being a chef when you just don't know when a former President of the United States might drop by to seek advice on intricate culinary matters. Staff slaving over stoves at Manchester's Jarvis Piccadilly Hotel on Sunday night were astonished when George Bush, with wife Barbara in tow, wandered into the kitchen.

Bush took the rainy city by surprise when he flew in on his own jet for a low-profile stopover at the end of a private European tour around Portugal, Albania and Italy. Amid tight security, he attended a 600-seat fundraising dinner held by the Joint Israel Appeal, which raises money for charities working in the fields of education, health and immigration.

As Bush jetted back to Texas yesterday, his hosts continued to veil the whole affair in secrecy, but I gather that after a four-course kosher dinner, including salmon and chicken, Bush reminisced about his time in the White House and US-Israel relations.

Then, clearly intrigued by the subtleties of kosher cooking, he dragged Barbara, herself a formidable cook, into the kitchens. "A

few jaws dropped when they came in," admits one member of staff. "There were security agents everywhere, but he just came in and started chatting away — he was a very nice chap, very relaxed. It's a big hotel and we do get some famous people, but not usually so big. So we gave him one of our nicest suites on the 14th floor."

● Keen to cut down on student drinking, but cooking a snoop at

SORRY I'M LATE, I CAUGHT THE WRONG TRAIN AT WATERLOO.



Virginia Bottomley's guidelines on healthy eating, the junior common room wags at Christ Church, Oxford, have elected a *Cake Rep* dedicated to "promoting cake as a clean and healthy alternative to alcohol".

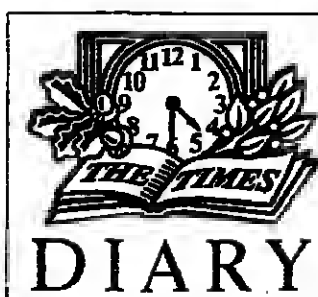
Tongue tied

OUR NEW Euro Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, is to take French lessons before taking on the transport portfolio. The Foreign Office, I hear, has offered the former Labour leader a special tutor to speed up the learning process.

For despite a spot of help from his linguist son, Stephen, Kinnock is said by my FO source to be in the early stages. "He will need more than schoolroom French," my man warns, "because the job will entail very complex language."

Not stumped

CONGRATULATIONS TO Harold Larwood, who celebrated his 90th birthday at home in Sydney yesterday. When I spoke to the legendary fast bowler to wish him many happy returns, he said that while virtually blind he still has something to offer the England attack.



Keen, young quick bowlers regularly beat a path to his door, and the MCC's current great hope, Darren Gough, is booked in for a pep talk when the team are in Sydney later in the tour.

The man who terrified Bradman and company on the "Bodyline" tour 60 years ago insists there is no need to bowl dangerously. "I didn't actually hit many — only three in my entire career," he adds a tip for keeping fit. "I go to bed at 5.30 every night."

Unrelenting

POOR Sir Michael Rose, Commander of the United Nations forces in Bosnia, thought he could escape the traumas of the troubled region for a few days by returning to Britain. As he has been forced to

cancel his family Christmas, he is popping back to give a university lecture.

But coincidentally the Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic, has also picked this week to come to Harry Douglas Hurd and Malcolm Rifkind about lifting the arms embargo. "We're trying to make sure the two are in different parts of the country," sighs a diplomatic aide.

And the subject of our SAS hero's lecture? "Leadership and Crisis".

● A supremely auspicious start to the National Lottery for Charles Saatchi, a director of the PR firm which helped organise the campaign. His wife Kay gave birth to a baby girl yesterday at St Thomas's.

Plotters' plot

THE IDEAL property, possibly for any right-wingers contemplating a challenge to our PM: the gatehouse on the Cuesby estate in Ashby St Ledgers in Northamptonshire, where the 1605 conspirators met to plan the Gunpowder Plot — for sale at £2 million.

The property belonged to Robert Catesby, a devout Roman Catholic who was determined to blow up King James I in the Houses of Parliament. After the inept Guy



Joseph may be lucky, but Anne Boleyn found her number was up

Fawkes botched the attempt, Catesby and the rest of the conspirators fled home to the estate, which has since received the Lutyns treatment. Covering 32 acres, the site is perfect for a fireworks display, say agents Lane Fox. "You get a lot of history for your money."

Better luck

ESSEX WOMEN: definitely have the edge. For, needless to say, Chigwell man-eater Dorien believes she's already worked out a "magic" formula for the National Lottery. Within the bowels of the Tower of London for yesterday's



Joseph may be lucky, but Anne Boleyn found her number was up

breakfast launch, *Birds of a Feather* actress Lesley Joseph was intoning "1, 4, 16, 32, 48, 48...". Unlike John Major, who opted for 29, 3, 43, 13, 11, 10, this birdie followed by 13 plus his past and present addresses, Dorien insists there's a method behind her formula. However, amid the shadows of Anne Boleyn and others who met their fate in the Tower, both shared in the cold, windy dawn. "Early? Not at all," insists the stalwart Dorien. "There's a real sense of history coming through Traitor's Gate before dawn."

P-H-S



DUBLIN'S DUTY

Reynolds and Spring must resolve their differences

Eleven months after the Downing Street declaration, the Anglo-Irish peace process is in trouble. It is unexpected that the first major threat to the negotiations should come from Dublin rather than the IRA strongholds of the North. Many thought that the process would be thwarted by rifts within the republican movement; few predicted that it would be jeopardised by tensions within the Fianna Fail-Labour coalition which has governed the South for 22 months.

The public disagreement between the Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, and his Labour deputy, Dick Spring, over the appointment of Harry Whelehan as president of the Irish High Court jars with the statesmanlike image which the coalition partners have cultivated in recent months. Mr Reynolds has launched his National Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, while Mr Spring has been an increasingly confident player on the international stage, not least in his negotiations with President Clinton. On the future of the North, they have spoken as one since the declaration was signed.

Against this background of calm political resolve, it is easy to forget the fragility of the pact forged between the two men early last year. Mr Reynolds forced an election in November 1992 after accusing his Progressive Democrat coalition partner of dishonesty. The "Albert factor" was expected to sink Fianna Fail's fortunes and usher in a "rainbow" partnership of Mr Spring's modernised Labour Party, the PDs and John Bruton's Fine Gael. Unexpectedly, Mr Reynolds salvaged a nervous alliance with Labour after Fianna Fail achieved its worst electoral result since 1927. The coalition took weeks to stitch together. Its contradictions have not been resolved in the last two years.

This has become dramatically clear in the row over Mr Whelehan's appointment. Specific questions have been raised about his handling as Attorney-General of an extradition case involving a Catholic priest who was later jailed for child sex abuse offences. But it is obvious that the problems within the coalition extend far beyond this particular case. The credibility of the Irish Government is at its lowest ebb since the last coalition disintegrated in 1992.

The stakes are far higher than they were then. Voters have grown accustomed to the factionalism of coalition politics. But too much depends on the survival of this government for the Irish to accept this bout of squabbling as more of the same. The foundations of the Anglo-Irish peace process are personal contacts rather than abstract principles. The republican movement has developed strong links within the coalition government; Mr Reynolds has an easy understanding with John Major, who last night announced exploratory talks with Loyalist paramilitary groups; Mr Spring has inspired respect in the diplomatic community. Future trust depends on a small group of key individuals staying where they are.

To argue that Mr Bruton should now become Taoiseach is to miss the point. Mr Bruton might have been a better choice than Mr Reynolds in 1992. But much has happened since then to make Mr Reynolds's survival desirable, if not essential. Mr Whelehan could ease the process of reconciliation by stepping aside. But it is for the Taoiseach and Mr Spring themselves to decide where their priorities lie and whether the peace process is worth sacrificing to the spirit of faction. Their decisions will determine the judgment of posterity.

FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY

Everybody ought to support the Red Cross anniversary appeal

The Red Cross is the world's oldest, most revered and arguably most effective international humanitarian agency. Founded in 1863 by Henri Dunant, an itinerant Geneva trader who witnessed the horrific casualties at the battle of Solferino, the Swiss-based organisation has mobilised the idealism and altruism of thousands of volunteers around the globe into saving the lives of millions.

Next year the British Red Cross Society celebrates its 125th anniversary. Continuing the energetic support Britain's royal family has given to the Red Cross, the Princess of Wales yesterday announced that she has agreed to be patron of the anniversary appeal. The Times will make that appeal the sole focus of our fund-raising this Christmas. It was a letter to The Times by Colonel Robert Lloyd Lindsay, VC, in 1870 that led to the establishment of the national society, and between 1914 and 1918 this newspaper administered the Red Cross appeal that raised some £22 million, making it the most successful appeal yet launched.

It is not only the calendar that has kept the Red Cross in the news, however. Sadly, its basic humanitarian functions are as urgently needed as they were when Henri Dunant organised local volunteers to fetch water, bind the wounds and convey the dying messages of the 38,000 casualties of the 15-hour battle in 1859 during the French and Sardinian Campaign. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the privately run and Swiss directed parent body, has been in the forefront of the effort to relieve the suffering during the flight of the Kurds, the war in Bosnia, the famine in Sudan, the genocide in Rwanda and more than a dozen other regional conflicts now taking their grisly toll. The work is as dangerous as ever.

Red Cross relief planes have been shot down in Somalia and blown up in Sudan; this year an Icelandic volunteer was killed in Afghanistan, 12 officials were murdered in Rwanda and others have been threatened with beatings, imprisonment and death.

Since its foundation, the Red Cross has had to tread into a moral minefield. It regards itself as neutral in politics, religion and ideology, and insists that to be effective it must eschew all public judgement. To gain access to the camps and channelling houses where millions of prisoners of war and ethnic cleansing are held in brutal conditions, it must negotiate, in confidence and silence, with the very jailers whose inhumanity demands public exposure. After the Second World War, the Red Cross, which delivered millions of parcels to those starving in German prisoner-of-war camps, was pilloried for not speaking out more forcefully on the atrocities it learnt about in the extermination camps, where it was denied access. The same accusation arose again in 1992 after the horror of the camps in Bosnia was revealed.

Yet the force of the ICRC's counter-argument is as persuasive now as ever: it can only act by persuasion and consent. It is for others to take political or military action against the perpetrators of evil; and it is for other relief agencies to lobby against abuse. The Red Cross is the self-appointed upholder of the Geneva Conventions, which themselves can only be effective if observed by all combatants. It is not a role for the morally squeamish or those who would trumpet principle above practicalities. But for the millions who have been fed and tended even in the depths of oppression, the Red Cross has been and is a lifeline.

WHERE THE BUCK STOPS

Even monastic tonic should come with a mild spiritual warning

Helen Liddell, John Smith's successor as Labour MP for Monklands East, went to Buckfast Abbey yesterday to complain about the wine. Her complaint is that Buckfast tonic wine, fortified by the monks according to their secret recipe, comes too strong and too cheap. She claims that it is causing teenage alcoholism in her constituency, which already has its local problems of corruption and sectarianism. The monks replied that their potent brew was simply "a drop in the ocean" compared with the other alcohol consumed in Scotland, and that even if it were withdrawn from the market its drinkers would find something else.

The young drinkers of Lanarkshire call the mixture "Buckie" or "a bottle of 30 days", because that is what the sheriff is likely to give them in Barlinnie after they have smashed a shop window under its influence. Mrs Liddell wants the monks to reduce the potency of their wine from 15 per cent alcohol and to increase the price (about £5 a bottle). If they refuse, she will write to the Vatican.

Borgia popes served wine that gave their guests a worse hangover than Buckfast. But guests a worse hangover of alcohol is a particular problem for northerners. From Glasgow to Moscow, getting drunk as quickly and economically as possible is a melancholy tradition. And there is a polar duality in the Scottish character between drunkenness and pious disgust at the demon drink. Rab C. Nesbitt, the television caricature of the scandalous Scot, went so far as to set one of his skits in Buckfast Abbey.

The monks singing *Carmine Burana* and the legend of Friar Tuck are just two ringleaders in a rout of unsteady witnesses.

Some monks have always treated alcohol as a familiar friend, and monks have been expert at brewing, fermenting and distilling since the first monasteries were founded. Drinks to make glad the heart of man — from Champagne to Chartreuse — were monastic inventions. The Bible has more to say in praise of wine than in proscription. Drunkenness has no separate entry as a deadly sin, but is subsumed under gluttony.

To attack the monks of Buckfast Abbey for creating young drunkards is to blame the brewer instead of the drinker. Drunkenness has always been a wicked waste, and it can be a tragedy. That is not the fault of the monks. But if it is true that four-fifths of the sales of Buckfast tonic wine are in central Scotland, the monks should consider adapting their product for their principal market. They have already fixed a disclaimer to their bottles about the oxymoron of "tonic wine", explaining for those tempted by a small glass for purely medicinal purposes that it does nothing for their health.

Dom Perignon might have disapproved of plastic bottles, though he was a famously innovative monk. But plastic would reduce the public danger of broken glass in the streets. Since their wine is in danger of becoming a public scandal, the monks should consider watering down their secret formula, however much this offends tradition. Their tradition is less than a century old, and performed with wine imported from France. Wine is naturally a good thing, spoiled by misuse. Drunkenness can be partly controlled by law, bylaw, education and exhortation. But the merry monks of Buckfast Abbey should do their bit to help.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Charity agencies defend role in world trouble-spots

From the Director, International Division, Actionaid

Sir, The lesson to be learnt from Rwanda, Somalia and Bosnia ("Fanning the flames of war", Simon Jenkins, November 9) is not that intervention is always wrong, but that its precise timing and mandate are of the utmost importance.

In April, instead of taking action to halt the killings in Rwanda, the UN force there was cut from 1,700 to 270 troops. The following month, with massacres occurring throughout the country, a Security Council resolution demanded the dispatch of 5,500 troops. By mid-June, however, none had arrived, leaving the grounds for action by France alone. The massacres continued and the refugee crisis evolved.

Now, as the security situation in the refugee camps deteriorates, UN intervention is once more required; the necessity for action is beyond question. However, it is vital that any action taken is both immediate and appropriate. Intervention must follow a strict humanitarian mandate — ensuring the equitable distribution of relief and protection of refugees and aid workers.

The UN Secretary General is now approaching member states to solicit contributions to a security force, to be dispatched after a UN security assessment. This time, the response must be swift and positive. Appropriate and well-timed intervention is, in the short term, the only way to prevent yet further human suffering.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL TOWSE, Director,
International Division, Actionaid,
Hamlyn House,
Maccald Road, Archway, N19,
November 9.

From the Overseas Director of Care and the Deputy Director of Oxfam

Sir, Contrary to Simon Jenkins's theory that it is the international community that exacerbates instability in conflict situations, we believe it is the failure of

the international community to engage in political and diplomatic involvement in the resolution of conflict that has resulted in the present chaos in Somalia and Rwanda.

The suggestion that any future conflict in Rwanda "should be laid firmly at the door of international charity" is spurious. Humanitarian agencies, as distinct from the United Nations, do not have a mandate to resolve conflict or discharge international law. Mr Jenkins's apparent confusion of independent aid organisations with the United Nations in general underlies his flawed conclusions.

In the Rwandan crisis, far from "enticing the Hutus to set up camp" in Zaire, the aid agencies were accused at the time of being slow to respond to the largest, fastest refugee flow in recorded history.

It has been in the interests of Hutu extremists to force the Rwandan population to become and remain refugees. This has deflected the best efforts of aid agencies to prevent refugee outflow by leading people inside Rwanda and despite encouragements to the refugees to return home from neighbouring countries.

Mr Jenkins congratulates himself for suggesting in August that no aid be sent to Goma. Agencies warned as early as July that the relief effort in and around Rwanda could be compromised if no effort was made to address the presence of extremist political structures in the camps. Agencies such as ours have themselves supported human rights initiatives in Rwanda in the absence of decisive action by world governments.

Now, far from "blackmailing" the UN, Oxfam, Care (which has already withdrawn from one refugee camp) and Médecins sans Frontières are highlighting extremist intimidation of the refugee population, and are insisting that the UN take action now where it has failed to do so for so many months.

Mr Jenkins's article illustrates the urgent need for the international community to act consistently in upholding human rights and civil law. The

role of aid agencies in a humanitarian disaster is to address the effects of that disaster, while doing what they can to influence governments and the United Nations to play their role in addressing its causes.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SAYER
(Overseas Director, Care),
JOHN WHITAKER
(Deputy Director, Oxfam),
36-38 Southampton Street, WC2,
November 10.

From the International Director of the British Red Cross

Sir, Simon Jenkins's article seems to assume that aid agencies naively pour in emergency relief without assessing the wider picture or indeed monitoring closely where the aid goes. From my position, this could not be further from the truth.

All Red Cross operations are carefully monitored, both short-term emergency work and the longer-term rehabilitation projects set up after the immediate aftermath of a disaster. I would agree with Simon Jenkins that donor responsibility and accountability cannot be stressed enough. However, his inference that by intervening less more lives might be saved is highly dubious theorising and morally unacceptable.

Look no further than the example of Afghanistan. The International Committee of the Red Cross is the only agency to have retained a permanent presence in the city of Kabul. There has been almost no intervention by the international community. In Kabul alone this year, 7,000 people have been killed and 23,000 wounded. The only real difference between this conflict and other more "media friendly" disasters is that Afghanistan's people suffer in silence.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY DENNIS,
International Director,
British Red Cross,
9 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1,
November 11.

Clergy resignations

From Mr Rodney Bennett-England

Sir, Your report (November 5) that the 215 clergy resignations in the Church of England following the ordination of women priests was fewer than expected, underestimates the real reduction in available clergy.

Whilst this number may represent the actual resignations to date, there are many hundreds more clergy, especially those with families to support or approaching retirement, as well as others staying to test the House of Bishops' statement that there are now two integrities within the Church of England, just biding their time and abstaining from deanery and diocesan activities.

Added to the hundreds of retired and non-stipendiary clergy upon whom the Church increasingly relies for part-time help, and who have withdrawn their services, the numbers are considerably higher than reported.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY BENNETT-ENGLAND
(Director), Church in Danger,
PO Box 12, East Rudham,
Norfolk PE31 8QT.

Mother Teresa

From Mr Douglas Appleby

Sir, The world at large will know that Mother Teresa of Calcutta is a saint in our time who will look for the person of Christ in all mankind, saint or sinner (Letters, November 5, 11). Having watched "Hell's Angel" on Channel 4 this evening and listened to the commentary by Christopher Hitchens, I'm sure Mother Teresa would be the first to ask us to pray for him.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS APPLEBY,
Walsingham, 70 Nydere Avenue,
Worthing, West Sussex,
November 8.

From Mr Roy Richardson

Sir, I believe it was C. H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) who said to an opponent of his method of evangelism: "I prefer the way I do it to the way you don't do it."

Yours faithfully,
ROY RICHARDSON,
84 South Lane, New Malden, Surrey.

Tax cuts play

From Mr N. G. Walker

Sir, You have recently referred often to the Cabinet's plans to reduce public expenditure in order to fund tax cuts before the next election. You also report (November 9) the Cabinet's view that the Tories will not win the next election without such tax cuts.

Is the conspiracy to bribe the electorate an example of sleaze on the grand scale, and a revealing indicator of the depths to which British politics has now sunk?

Yours faithfully,
N. G. WALKER,
Stockwell Farm,
17 High Street, Haddenham,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
November 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

'Recaptured' calls

From Mr W. A. B. Brown

Sir, We must be on our guard against BT's new and insidious pestilence of telephone number "recapture" — the system, now due to start on November 22, whereby the recipient of a call can automatically identify the caller without first picking up the receiver ("Goodbye to heavy breathers", Info-tech, November 4).

Some of us started bristling three months ago, when discreet notices began trickling into letterboxes from BT, omitting to tell us (which your report now does) that by dialling 0800 80 1471 we can put a total stop to anyone having access to our number before answering, during, or after, a call. Why should anybody have this facility? It is a gross invasion of personal

privacy and will be a paradise for irresponsible telephone salespeople.

Those who choose to keep their numbers ex-directory should have the stop service provided automatically. Why should we have to go to this further trouble, or worse still risk losing the cover for our numbers, without at least being made directly, personally aware of the opt-out arrangements?

We can surely stop, or catch, habitual nuisance callers by quite simply asking the exchange for the caller's number. The scheme is ill thought-out and piratical. Someone has planned to make a mountain of money out of the naivety of the majority.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. B. BROWN,
Brownberry House,
Brownberry Lane,
Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Allergy treatment

From Dr J. R. Mansfield

Sir, You describe a report on the management of allergy (details, November 1, letter, November 9). I would like to make the following observations:

The report, "Good allergy practice", published by the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists, states that the methods used by some allergists had not been evaluated by reputable, randomised, placebo-controlled trials. This is not true. The recently published document, "Effective allergy practice", describes many such trials.

Furthermore, the techniques which are criticised in this report are widely available in the USA and other parts of Europe.

Practitioners who use these techniques would welcome the opportunity to take part in ever more extensive trials. Unfortunately, while drugs have the backing of millions of pounds from the pharmaceutical industry, there is minimal funding for the research suggested.

We are surprised that the authors did not urge the National Health Service to fund the research they wanted to see done.

Yours sincerely,
J. R. MANSFIELD,
(President, British Society for Allergy and Environmental Medicine),
The Burghwood Clinic,
34 Brighton Road,
Banstead, Surrey,
November 3.

The New Forest

From Mr and Mrs Jan Page

Sir, The Earl of Malmesbury (letter, November 5) apparently no longer lives in the New Forest. Those of us who do, and who support the recommendations of the Local Government Review Commission, trust that the Secretary of State will not be influenced by his views.

A sentimental attachment to the concept of Hampshire as a geographical county, a cricket team, an area for the grouping of organisations like bowls clubs or Women's Institutes, need not be threatened by the recommendations. Hampshire will still exist for all of us who live here.

Local government from Winchester is a different matter. Hampshire County Council has tried various structures, divisional and area-based,

Death penalty

From Dr M. P. Carlew

Sir, While sympathising with the Marquess of Milford Haven in his anger at the thought of releasing the murderer of Lord Mountbatten after 15 years (letter, November 9), I feel impelled to point out the hypocrisy of many present-day attitudes to crime and punishment.

The public recoils from the death penalty mainly because of the archaic and inhumane method used right up to its abolition, but the same public appears not to mind a job if prisoners are kept without hope of release. Some of these prisoners are violent and dangerous men, posing a constant threat to those whose job it is to keep them confined.

If really wicked and dangerous men are to be imprisoned for the rest of their natural lives, most of the constraints on their behaviour will have been removed. They might as well kill their fellow inmates and prison officers, for they will know that they are already serving the maximum sentence. If there is to be no hope, far better to reintroduce the death penalty. A man with no hope is better dead, and the prison officers' wives will sleep more easily.

Yours faithfully,
M. P. CARLEW,
(Part-time medical officer,
Parkhurst Prison),
Rookley Manor,
Rookley, Isle of Wight,
November 11.

to enable itself to govern efficiently and cost-effectively; but honest county councillors have been heard to admit that they are mere "rubber stamps", approving officer-led decisions about areas they do not know.

The Earl of Malmesbury is right that forest decisions need to be taken by forest people, but he forgets that our wider area is not just Hampshire but includes Dorset and Wiltshire. We shall be better placed to negotiate with their local authorities as a New Forest unitary authority. There may be a cost to accountability, but if it means local government which we can truly influence, it will be a small and worthwhile price.

Yours faithfully,
JAN PAGE,
SHEILA PAGE,
34 Avenue Road,
Lymington, Hampshire.

Ways to reform House of Lords

From the Leader of the Opposition in the Lords

Sir, Your leader of November 8, "New earnings", seems to me to be correct in analysis but wrong in its conclusion [see also letters, November 10]. Certainly the House of Lords is becoming more rather than less useful as a legislative House but the presence of no fewer than 758 peers by succession can hardly be left to the creeping gradualism you propose.

Legislation to remove from a new hereditary peer the automatic right to a seat in Parliament would take some 35 to 40 years to work through, given the ages of the existing hereditary peers.

There are surely three main points to consider:

First, the country does need a second chamber. Legislation emerging from the Commons must be given a long, hard and detailed look, and the number of amendments now being made to Government Bills is proof of that.

Secondly, there is much to be said for retaining a crossbench element in any future chamber. The crossbenchers bring independence, experience and (sometimes) wisdom to Parliament as a whole.

Thirdly, the right of hereditary peers to an automatic seat in the Lords really must go. It is now anachronistic and unjustifiable.

Of course a chamber based solely on patronage would be open to objection if permanent, but at least life peers are there for what they have done and not for what their ancestors did. As a move in the direction of a more sensible second chamber the speedy abolition of the hereditary peerage's automatic right to sit in Parliament is much overdue.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD,
House of Lords,
November 10.

From Mr E. J. Fawcett

Sir, The problem with the Lords is not that the Upper House is necessarily unrepresentative, but that the style and title of its members sends all the wrong messages to the population at large and to those viewing us from overseas.

We persist in awarding titles and honours to those who, in many cases, have enjoyed high incomes and very rewarding careers, and thereby perpetuating a class of people who are recognised as different and treated as privileged. That most of them are very capable is without doubt but we must find other ways of acknowledging outstanding public service than by changing a person's name.

The reality of the House of Lords is probably that of a decent set of hard-working men and women constraining the worst excesses of a government and the lower, elected chamber. The appearance is that the Lords, whatever its merits, is composed of people from a privileged core of society. It is this signal which helps to portray Britain as being reluctant to adopt a modern competitive economy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FAWCETT,
Southfield Lodge, Main Street,
Hove, Hove, Nottingham,
November 9.

Pulling his weight

From Mr Leonard Ketley

Sir, The recent spate of articles and letters for and against school sporting activities and value thereof (letters, October 19, 26, 31, November 8) brings to mind a memory of the late 1930s when the secondary school which I attended in Woolwich was divided for sporting activities into five houses.

One of my contemporaries in my house was a lad who was — to use a kindly word — portly. For every week bar two in the scholastic year he suffered from a non-stop barrage of "fat-boy" jokes: he was humiliated, despised, subjected to all sorts of indignities — except during sports fortnight. During those two weeks he was fêted, as one of the very first super-stars.

The reason was very simple — he was our house tug-of-war anchor-man. I cannot recall our ever losing a heat and the finals on the second Friday afternoons were foregone conclusions.

Enclosed by his bevy of young admirers he stood at the end of the line, wrapped the excess rope around his ample frame, stamped each large boot into the turf and leaned back. It was all he had to do — except a ten-minute period later to enjoy the adulation victory brought.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD KETLEY,
9 Horton Road, Slapton,
Nr Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire,
November 8.

Grand Prix outcome

From Mr and Mrs Maryn Cleasby

Sir, What a hollow victory Herr Schumacher must be celebrating. Had the Australian Grand Prix been a horse race, there would certainly have been a stewards' inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
GABRIELLE CLEASBY,
MARTYN CLEASBY,
Trinity House, 33 Victoria Road,
Retford, Nottinghamshire,
November 13.

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 13: The Duchess of Kent this morning attended a Service of Remembrance and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph, the City Hall, Belfast and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast (Colonel Elliott Wilson) and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Sir Patrick Mayhew).
The Lady Asor of Hever was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Queen, Patron, this afternoon visited Licensed Victuallers' School, Ascot, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Berkshire (Mr John Henderson), the Governor of the Society of Licensed Victuallers and Licensed Victuallers' Schools (Mr Maurice Quirk), the Chief Executive of Licensed Victuallers' Schools (Mr Colin Whelan) and the Mayor of Bracknell Forest (Councillor Alan Ward).

Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque, before touring the school and viewing various displays by the children.
The Lady Elton, Mr Robin Jarman and Major James Patrick were in attendance.
By Command of The Queen, the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening on the departure of the Duke of York for Argentina and bade farewell to His Royal Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Duke of York left Heathrow Airport, London, this evening for Buenos Aires, Argentina.
The following were present and took leave of His Royal Highness: His Excellency Señor Mario Campora (Ambassador from the Argentine Republic) and Sir Roger Hervey (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs).

Captain Neil Blair RN, Mr Geoffrey Crawford and Captain David Thompson were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: The Princess Royal, Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, this morning attended

the Basic Skills and Voluntary Organisations Conference at Glaziers' Hall, London SE1.
Her Royal Highness, Patron, the National Coaching Foundation, this afternoon attended the Coach of the Year Awards and Luncheon at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London W1.

The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, later attended the Annual General Meeting at Earls Court Park Inn International Hotel, Lillie Road, London SW6.
Her Royal Highness, Patron, International Health Exchange, this evening attended the Dinner Meeting at the Royal College of Nursing, Tavistock Square, London W1.

Mrs William Munnery was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 14: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Prince of Wales.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 14: The Princess of Wales, Patron, International Spiral Research Trust, this morning received representatives from the charity and members of Icelandic 500.
Her Royal Highness, Vice President, British Red Cross Society, and Patron, British Red Cross Youth, this evening attended a Reception to launch the 125 Society in connection with the 125th Birthday of the British Red Cross in 1995 at Lancaster House, St James's, London SW1.

Mrs Max Pike and Mr Patrick Jepson were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 14: The Duke of Gloucester was present at the Annual Dinner of the British Association Sovereign Military Order of Malta at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1.
Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 14: The Duchess of Kent, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Dragoon Guards, this afternoon left RAF Northolt for Paderborn, Germany.

Mrs Peter Troughton was in attendance.

Mr Peter Phillips is 17 years old today.

Birthdays today
Mr J.C. Ballard, novelist, 64; Mr J.C. Ballard, chairman, Mobil Oil Company, 47; Mr David Barenboim, pianist and conductor, 51; Sir Geoffrey Chander, former director-general, NEDCO, 72; Miss Alice MacKenzie, chartered accountant, 60; Mr Tim Pears, writer, 38; Mr D.D. Rae Smith, chartered accountant, 75; Sir Wallace Rowling, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 67.

Major-General J.K. Shephard, 86; Canon Eric Stapleton, former Chaplain to the Queen, 84; Mr Ralph Stubbs, machine engineer, 49; Mr John W. Tupper, former UN Director for Jordan, 71; Sir Roger Young, former principal, George Watson's College, Edinburgh, 71.

Reception

British Red Cross
The Princess of Wales, Vice-President of the British Red Cross and Patron of the 125th Birthday Appeal, was the guest of honour at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House to launch the 125 Society in connection with the 125th birthday of the British Red Cross. The Duchess of York, the Duchess of Gloucester and Queen Anne-Marie of the Hellenes were also present.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Professor Geoffrey Wood, Professor of Economics, City University, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's, Mrs Mairi Radcliffe presided.



Competing for the £21,000 overall prize from the left, James Fenton (poetry), William Trevor (novel), Geraldine McCaughrean (children's novel), Fred D'Aguiar (first novel) and, below, Brenda Maddox (biography)

Harsh words for bad poets

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE standard of poetry entered for the 1994 Whitbread awards was, with the exception of the three shortlisted poets, "totally abysmal", Auberon Waugh, editor of the *Literary Review* and one of this year's Whitbread Award adjudicators, said yesterday.

Speaking at the awards ceremony just after it was announced that the poetry category had attracted a

record 77 entries, he expressed disbelief that "such rubbish should be printed at all". James Fenton was among the few "head and shoulders above the rest", who used rhyme in a way that lent weight to what he was saying. Mr Fenton, who succeeded Seamus Heaney to the Oxford University poetry chair earlier this year, won the £2,000 Whitbread prize. The other four winners yesterday were for biography, first novel, novel and children's novel.

They will compete for the £21,000 overall prize on January 24 and were selected from 394 entries, the highest in the Whitbread 24-year history.

The biography award was won by Brenda Maddox for *The Married Man: A Life Of D.H. Lawrence*. William Trevor's *Felicia's Journey*, about a 17-year-old Irish girl, was the novel award-winner. Fred D'Aguiar, a London poet, was named in the section for first novel, *The Longest Memory*. Geraldine Mc-



Caughrean's *Gold Dust* took the Beecarter children's novel award.

Today's royal engagements

will visit the Royal Mews Group at Knightsbridge Barracks at 10.00 to mark their 25th anniversary. As Patron of the British School of Osteopathy, will attend the 25th anniversary awards ceremony and present the prizes at St Martin-in-the-Fields, at 3.15 and attend a reception afterwards at 4.10.

Later, as President of REDR - Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief - will attend the annual meeting at the Institution of Civil

Engineers at 5.00; and, as Commandant in Chief, The Women's Transport Service (FANY) will attend the casualty bureau exercise at Bishopsgate Police Station, EC2, at 7.00.

Princess Margaret, as Honorary President of the British Museum Development Trust, will attend a dinner at the museum at 7.45 to launch the 25th anniversary appeal.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a concert at St John's Smith Square at 7.30 in aid of the Chemotherapy Foundation.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the Gypsy House, Shepperton, at 12.40; and will open the Stour View Family Centre at Sturminster Newton, at 2.50.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.J. Claridge and Miss A.E. Lucas

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr David Penrose, of Dringstone, Suffolk, and Dido, daughter of Lord and Lady Harding of Petherton, of Langport, Somerset.

Mr T.L. Williams and Miss A.E. Bailey

The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Williams, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, and Anna, second daughter of Mrs Alan and Rachel Bailey, of - Chalfield, Gloucestershire.

Mr Jim Downie, CBE, Aberdeen.

Mr J.D. Penrose

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mrs David Penrose, of Dringstone, Suffolk, and Dido, daughter of Lord and Lady Harding of Petherton, of Langport, Somerset.

Mr T.L. Williams and Miss A.E. Bailey

The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Williams, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, and Anna, second daughter of Mrs Alan and Rachel Bailey, of - Chalfield, Gloucestershire.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

You are anxious, Lord, more anxious than the ever-moving mountains.
(Psalm 76: 4 (GCB))

BIRTHS

ALDRINGTON - On 11th November, to Mr and Mrs David Aldington, a son, Harry Dominic, a son, Harry Dominic.

ARMSTRONG - On November 10th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Armstrong, a son, David Armstrong.

BYRNE - On November 8th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Byrne, a son, David Byrne.

CAMPBELL - On November 9th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Campbell, a son, David Campbell.

DAVIES - On November 10th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Davies, a son, David Davies.

DOWDER - On November 13th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Dowder, a son, David Dowder.

GILL - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Gill, a son, David Gill.

KIRWAN - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Kirwan, a son, David Kirwan.

MALCOLM - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Malcolm, a son, David Malcolm.

MAURICE - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Maurice, a son, David Maurice.

WOODS - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Woods, a son, David Woods.

WILLIAMS - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

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WILLIAMS - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

DEATHS

SLATER - On 10th November, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Slater, a son, David Slater.

TAYLOR - On November 7th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Taylor, a son, David Taylor.

WALLER - On November 12th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Waller, a son, David Waller.

WILLIAMS - On November 13th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 14th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 16th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 17th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 18th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 19th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 20th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 21st, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 22nd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 23rd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 24th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 25th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 26th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 27th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 28th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 29th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 30th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 31st, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 32nd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 33rd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 34th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 35th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 36th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 37th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 38th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 39th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 40th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 41st, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 42nd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

WILLIAMS - On November 43rd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Williams, a son, David Williams.

DEATHS

GEORGE - On 10th November, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David George, a son, David George.

HUGHES - On November 11th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Hughes, a son, David Hughes.

KENNEDY - On November 12th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Kennedy, a son, David Kennedy.

MACDONALD - On November 13th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David MacDonald, a son, David MacDonald.

MCCARTHY - On November 14th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 16th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 17th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 18th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 19th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 20th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 21st, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 22nd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

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MCCARTHY - On November 24th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

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MCCARTHY - On November 42nd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 43rd, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

DEATHS

EVANS - On 10th November, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Evans, a son, David Evans.

GORDON - On November 11th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Gordon, a son, David Gordon.

HARMAN - On November 12th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Harman, a son, David Harman.

KENNEDY - On November 13th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David Kennedy, a son, David Kennedy.

MACDONALD - On November 14th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David MacDonald, a son, David MacDonald.

MCCARTHY - On November 15th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 16th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 17th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 18th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 19th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

MCCARTHY - On November 20th, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs David McCarthy, a son, David McCarthy.

HARDIE WILLIAMSON

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ARTS 31-33

I am a camera: the Surreal faces of Claude Cahun



LAW 35-38

Paperwork pressure for the young would-be barristers



SPORT 39-44

Getting slow to seize England Test opportunity

DARTS COMPANY HITS TARGET
Small business 30

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15 1994

BaE wins US order worth up to £270m

By Ross Tyerman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH Aerospace has secured orders and options for up to 60 aircraft worth £270 million from its loss-making Jetstream Aircraft business in Scotland.

Trans States Airlines, of the United States, has placed firm orders for 25 30-seat Jetstream 41 planes, and taken options to acquire 35 more. The order was won in the face of intense competition from Embraer of Brazil, which has dominated recent purchases by American feeder airlines.

Production at the Jetstream plant, which is expected to lose £120 million this year, is likely to double next year to around 30 planes as a result of the Trans States deal.

British Aerospace refused to say what impact the order would have on the rate of losses at the plant at Prestwick, Strathclyde, or whether

plane the development of which was completed less than two years ago.

Trans States, based in St Louis, Missouri, already operates 33 Jetstream Super 31 planes built by British Aerospace. The 19-seater is the best-selling civil plane built by BaE; 381 have been sold or delivered worldwide.

The president of Trans States, Hualas Kanodia, said: "Our analysis indicates the Jetstream 41 has the lowest operating cost of any 30 seat aircraft." Equally significant, the British plane was chosen in preference to a further purchase of Embraer Brasilia aircraft, a 30-seat type already operated by Trans States whose state-funded makers have been accused of buying market share through rock-bottom pricing.

BaE last night insisted that the Trans States order would be profitable. The airline has clearly extracted a good deal on price. The average price to Trans States is \$6.75 million a plane, compared with a guide price of \$7 million a year ago. BaE will arrange lease finance for the aircraft, although the contract will be structured to ensure any loss is written off at the outset.

The order for 25 Jetstream 41 aircraft, announced amid typical internal confusion by BaE, is a critical step in the right direction. If Trans States Airlines confirms its options for 35 more, BaE's Prestwick plant will have two years steady work.

Pennington, page 25

the jobs of the 2,100 workers would be secured in the longer term. However, Jetstream has been considering making 150 of its workers redundant and has delayed the decision in the hope of winning the Trans States order. For the time being at least, those jobs look secure. But the contract will hugely strengthen the hand of BaE directors in talks aimed at finding a joint-venture partner for the business to stem the losses. Discussions over a possible merger have been going on with Avions de Transport Régionale, a joint company between Aerospaciale of France and Alenia of Italy, and with Saab of Sweden, for more than a year.

In selecting the Jetstream 41, Trans States has also provided the BaE division with an invaluable endorsement of a



MICHAEL Portillo, the Employment Secretary, meets Derek Morphy, 19, a trainee painter and decorator who will be one of those to benefit from a training strategy for the construction industry that was launched in London yesterday. The initiative was devised in response to Government demands for a new era of work training.

Training scheme aims to build new era of construction skills

The strategy, drawn up in the face of recession and changes in the educa-

tion system, has been adopted as official policy by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), chaired by Sir Clifford Chatwood. The policy includes six flexible routes for

an anticipated growth of 1 per cent a year in construction output. It took two years for construction training and education experts to develop the scheme and involved two industry-wide consultations.

Kevin Barron, Labour's spokesman on training, welcomed the move, which, he added, met Labour's concerns over the quality of the Government's Youth Training Scheme.

Boots confirms pharmaceutical disposal to BASF

By Susan Gilchrist

THE Boots Company confirmed yesterday that it is selling its pharmaceutical arm to BASF, the German chemical and drugs combine, for £850 million, ending months of intense speculation.

BASF outbid a management consortium backed by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, which offered £800 million. However, a spokesman for the consortium said last night that it was not out of the running, although it is unlikely to come back with a higher bid.

The news will cause concern in Nottingham, where Boots is the biggest employer. The company would not be drawn on the future of the division's 6,000 employees, 1,500 of whom work in the UK.

MSF, the union for skilled and professional workers,

said: "We are concerned that such an innovative industry with such a secure future is leaving UK hands."

Sir James Blyth, Boots's chief executive, said the deal offered exciting prospects for expansion. Dr Thorlef Spickshien, chief executive of BASF Pharma, said the two businesses were a very good strategic fit, therapeutically and geographically.

Boots said no decision had been made on giving the sale proceeds to shareholders in the form of a one-off special dividend payment. However, Sir James has made clear he does not object to giving money back to investors. The deal will be earnings dilutive this year and next.

Tempus, page 26

High street sales fall for first time in two years

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

HIGH street sales fell last month for the first time in almost two years, the Confederation of British Industry says today.

The Government will later this week announce the latest retail sales figures, which City forecasters believe will show that sales growth this month is likely to be steady.

The CBI's survey of 15,000 outlets in retailing, wholesaling, and the motor trades, taken at the end of last month, suggests retail sales in the year to October have fallen back.

The latest CBI distributive trades survey shows a slight fall in the volume of retail sales, with a negative balance — those reporting an increase in sales set against those registering a fall — of minus 3 per cent of high street companies saying sales were down over the year. The CBI says 34 per

cent of retailers reported higher sales volumes last month, compared with the same month a year ago, while 37 per cent said they were lower.

This negative balance is the first actual fall in high street sales volumes since a balance of minus 4 per cent in December 1992, although CBI economists emphasise that the relatively slight dip in one month's figures did suggest a flattening of sales, rather than a significant absolute decline. In September, a balance of 27 per cent of high street traders were expecting an increase in sales volumes.

Expectations for sales over the next month have been cut back to a balance of 19 per cent, but CBI officials point out that retailers' expectations have not been fully realised in seven of the past ten months. While most retail sectors re-

ported at least some sales growth, the largest volume increases were in footwear, together with durable household goods and off-licences.

Annual declines were seen in furniture retailing, carpets and specialist food sellers. Sales remain below average for the time of year for most retailers. Orders placed with suppliers remain flat, while stock levels are still excessive in relation to expected demand.

Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, says: "The levelling off in high street trade in October is typical of the uneven pattern in sales experienced by most retailers throughout this year. It shows the uncertain trading conditions that retailers still face."

Motor traders say that in the year to October, sales volumes fell further than expected.

Producer prices fuel rate rise fears

By Colin Narbrough

FACTORY gate prices and the prices manufacturers pay for raw materials rose less than expected last month, but the underlying trend signalled higher inflation in the months ahead.

Although the underlying picture from the producer price data published yesterday fuelled City economists' concern about inflationary pressure and the need for a further interest rate rise, analysts expect Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to delay any base rate move until after the Budget, probably until next year.

The headline producer price figures showed factory gate prices rising a provisional 0.1 per cent in October, below market forecasts after an 0.2 per cent September rise, leaving the year-on-year increase steady at 2.3 per cent.

But the core measure of output prices, which excludes food, drink, tobacco and petrol, rose 0.4 per cent last month, for the second month running, pushing the year-on-year increase up to 2.3 per cent from 2.1 per cent.

On the input side, manufacturers saw the headline price of raw materials and fuel rise 0.1 per cent last month, the smallest monthly gain since January, after an 0.8 per cent jump in September. The year-on-year rate was up to 6.9 per cent from 6.2 per cent.

Market forecasts for retail price inflation in October centre on a rise of 0.3 per cent, with a year-on-year increase of 2.6 per cent, in part reflecting September's half point rise in base rates. The underlying annual rate is expected to be steady at 2 per cent.

VSEL bid threatens jobs, unions say

By Philip Bassett

TRADE union leaders said yesterday that a takeover of the VSEL warship yard in Barrow would lead to up to 20,000 job losses in the shipbuilding and fitting industries, and called on the Government to refer the sale to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

British Aerospace and GEC are both bidding for the yard in Barrow, which makes Trident nuclear submarines.

Defence industry trade unions claimed yesterday that

a takeover would lead to only one Royal Navy dockyard and one private warship yard surviving because a single company would dominate shipbuilding and ship-refitting in the UK.

Jack Dromey, who chairs a grouping of six unions with members in the Ministry of Defence, said a takeover would be disastrous, with "only a rump of a once-great industry" likely to survive under the ownership of a monopoly.

Coca-Cola launches £4m UK campaign

By Jon Ashworth

COCA-COLA has embarked on a £4 million television advertising campaign — one of the biggest ever seen in Britain — in what will be seen as a direct attack on supermarket copycat brands.

The six-week campaign, which opened last night, is part of an attempt to boost the size of the £6 billion-a-year UK soft drinks market. Fierce competition from brands such as Sainsbury's Classic Cola and Virgin Cola, backed by Richard Branson, have dented sales at certain outlets.

The drinks giant denies the new advertisements are a

response to the "cola wars" that have raged in supermarkets this year, but admits to localised damage. George Bradt, consumer marketing director for Coca-Cola in the UK and Ireland, said: "We have a 108-year-old brand that is doing very nicely thank you but needs to do better. My mission, our mission, is to grow our business."

Mr Bradt is one of 30 executives recruited to key posts around the world as part of a drive by Coca-Cola to focus on regions. The "one sight, one sound, one sell" theme seen in ads during the

1970s and 1980s has given way to a tailored approach.

The company claims third-quarter sales are up 21 per cent year on year, but admits to loss of custom at certain outlets. Sales fell sharply when Sainsbury's Classic Cola was launched in April.

Coca-Cola is not the only drinks giant to embark on an expensive marketing drive. Moët & Chandon, the world's top-selling champagne label, this week launches its first-ever advertising campaign at a rumoured cost of £1 million.



Going better? page 27

Sales of the real thing have been dented by copycats

100% MORTGAGES ARE VERY MUCH
ALIVE AND KICKING
WELL AT JOHN CHARCOL, SO YOU'LL BE YOURSELF IF YOU DON'T CALL US

At John Charcol we have a wide range of 100% mortgages, not to mention some very competitive 95% and 90% loans. So if you're selling your current home but suffering the downside of negative equity, or buying your first home and unable to find the initial deposit, we can offer you an affordable solution to your problem. For a written quotation, call us now on (071) 611 7000, or Leeds (0532) 473338. Or drop in and see us at 10-12 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 3DD.

JOHN CHARCOL
TALK ABOUT A BETTER MORTGAGE

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□ A milestone week for British Gas □ Welcome boost for BAe □ Visa becomes David to corporate Goliaths

British Gas's dash for direct debit

And so we lurch into a milestone week for British Gas. Tomorrow heralds the Queen's Speech, complete with legislative proposals to introduce the tortoise Gas Bill which, in the last political lap, finally overtook Post Office privatisation: Michael Heseltine's favoured hare.

It is no secret that legislation aimed at the introduction of widespread competition into the domestic gas market by 1998, is on the way. What requires clarification is whether serious and comprehensive legislation is envisaged, or merely the creation of something akin to an Ofgas Enabling Act, designed to confer greater powers on Clare Spottiswoode's regulatory quango. Of particular importance, not least to British Gas's 2 million shareholders, will be the calibre of measures proposed to prevent independent suppliers from cherry-picking the most lucrative customers. Will social costs be shared across the domestic market?

Just for good measure, tomorrow also heralds British Gas's third-quarter results. Impressive reading, if only because of the sheer scale of the anticipated loss, is well nigh guaranteed. British Gas's profits tend to be confined to the cold first and fourth quarters and City analysts are predicting a third-quarter deficit in the range of £200 million to £240 million, com-

pared with 1993's corresponding £225 million. The recent third-quarter message from BP that "UK gas sales were lower with reduced British Gas off-takes because of warmer weather" was hardly encouraging.

Much more intriguing, however, is speculation that before the week is out, British Gas's 18 million customers may hear word on the sensitive subject of prices. Judging from the replies given by Richard Giordano, British Gas's chairman, to the Trade and Industry Select Committee last month, the emphasis will be on price alterations, rather than the admitted prospect of "modest increases" in view of the decision to launch a major drive to promote payment by direct debit.

Giordano's message was that a modest price increase would be accompanied by "very attractive" discounts for those who pay promptly. Discounts, according to Giordano, would initially focus on direct debit schemes but, by next year, similar discounts would be available to those who shy away from bank

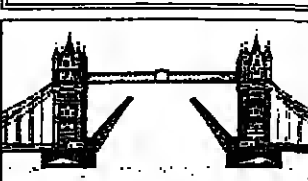
accounts but pay promptly. Giordano, in his evidence, stressed that significant cross-subsidies are built into the system, the largest of which relates to "who pays and who does not pay". In his words: "We already have 3 million customers who pay on direct debit — the most efficient means of collecting our money — but we have as many as 6 million customers who pay either slowly or do not pay or become debt problems." The latter are costly. And, of course, there are those (excluding the poor) who merely "play the system". What British Gas is mulling over is a change in the rules.

Jetstream flies into the big league

□ ALMOST every country in the world with industrial pretensions seems determined to develop a civil aircraft industry. In Britain, the battle to save the remnants of what was once a world-leader continues.

The order for 25 Jetstream 41 aircraft, announced yesterday by British Aerospace, is a critical

PENNINGTON



step in the right direction. If the customer, Trans States Airlines, confirms its options for 35 more, then BAe's Prestwick plant will have two years steady work, starting in January. Until yesterday, only nine orders were outstanding, representing just six months' production. A decent, standardised, workflow should help transform the economics of the plant. Since manufacture of the plane's wing is also to be shifted back to Prestwick from Gulfstream in Oklahoma, it is clear that the factory is already cost-competitive, world-wide.

The problem of global over-capacity in civil turbo-prop aircraft, announced yesterday by British Aerospace, is a critical

have reached the limits of the Brazilian state's largesse, and failed to undercut BAe for a lucrative American contract.

The choice of Jetstream 41 by Trans States is also significant. This plane is a new variant, not yet two years old, struggling to win the dominance of its market place enjoyed by the smaller J31.

Trans State's deal makes it a serious contender. Endorsement of the J41, and an order worth up to £270 million should strengthen the hand of BAe's directors in their efforts to achieve rationalisation of an over-supplied industry by merging Jetstream with the Franco-Italian group Avions de Transport Régional. The Jetstream 31 and 41, with 19 seats and 30 seats respectively, would fit neatly below the 50-seat ATR 42 and 74-seat ATR 72 to form a coherent range. The combination of ATR and Jetstream would create the most powerful alliance in the business turbo-prop sector.

And that might encourage Daimler Benz, parent of Dornier and Fokker, to talk more seriously about merging its regional jets with BAe's Avro International

business. But outside Britain, national pride still counts for more than money in this business. Don't hold your breath.

Cash-flow card for small firms

□ SMALL businesses have been pitting themselves against the bureaucratic might of the accounts departments of large corporations for long enough. Visa yesterday became the modern day, technology-driven David to the corporate Goliath, and may just have provided the beginning of the end of the small business's battle to get paid, with its new corporate charge card.

The policy of some large firms to delay the payment of their bills forced many suppliers out of business during the recession. Large firms will now be able to pay for small purchases within three banking days — compared with the practice of putting their suppliers through the agonies of a 45-day (often longer) wait for payment.

Needless to say, Goliath does pretty well out of the deal too.

The cost of tracking small payments to suppliers could be reduced by between 50 per cent and 70 per cent.

For the supplier there are costs to consider. They will have to balance the benefits of much improved cash flow against the payment of a "merchant fee" that will be due to the bank. NatWest, Barclays and Midland who are trialling the new corporate charge card will charge a merchant fee of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent of each transaction.

American Express, which has been offering a corporate charge card of its own to US customers, believes that there is no point in such a card until VAT information is included. That, Customs and Excise officials willing, should be available by the end of next year.

Long courtship

□ NO ONE can accuse David Davies, chairman of Johnson Matthey, or Richard Oster, Cookson's chief executive, of rushing into their leaked plans for a £2.5 billion amalgam. Cookson's 8 per cent stake in JM was sold in 1990 and, by all accounts, a flirtation has been under way since 1991. Talks, we are told, are at a "relatively early stage". Presumably, one can't be too careful.

BSkyB priced at up to £4.6bn for flotation

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

BSKYB, the satellite television station, will make its stock market debut next month with a price tag of up to £4.6 billion. This will rank it among the 40 biggest publicly quoted companies in the country.

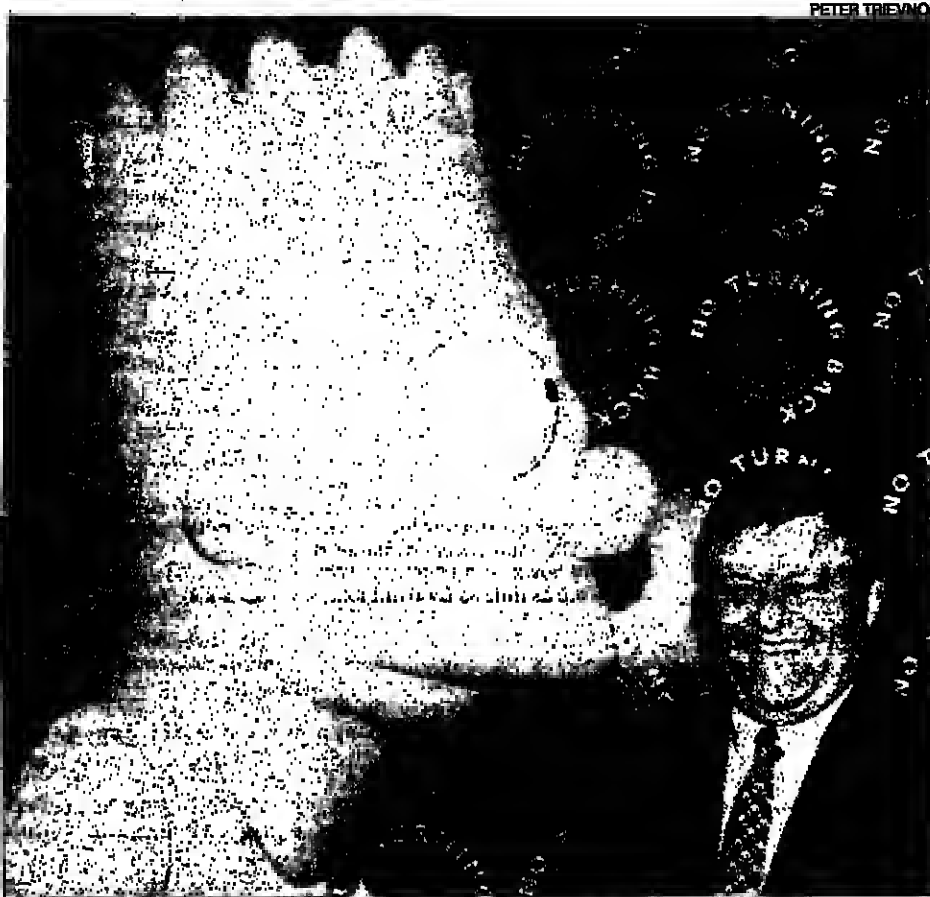
A fifth of the company — 343 million shares — is up for sale, and shares are expected to be priced at between 235p and 268p. The flotation comprises an international offer of 306.6 million shares and a UK retail offer of 36.4 million shares.

The UK portion of the deal will be open-priced, meaning that investors will apply for shares on the basis of the amount of money they wish to invest rather than the number of shares they want. The device is common in the US, but this is the first time it has been used in the UK for a retail offering.

Sam Chisholm, BSKYB's chief executive and managing director, said the company had transformed the face of television in Britain in recent years. "We are not a speculative new media investment. We have two years of positive, and growing, earnings under our belt. Our success will continue and even accelerate," he said.

BSKYB made operating profits of £170 million in the year to June 30, up from £62 million in the previous period and after the £47 million loss in the year before that. The popularity of subscription satellite television has grown rapidly and the company now has about 3.6 million viewers. Mr Chisholm said the company's strong record would continue in spite of increasing competition from cable operators.

The flotation will raise about £810 million, which



Bart Simpson, of *The Simpsons*, and Sam Chisholm launch BSKYB's prospectus

together with a new £400 million bank facility will be used to repay shareholder debt. Chargeurs, the French group, is the only existing shareholder subscribing for new shares. Nevertheless, it will still see its stake slip from 17.5 to 17 per cent. The News Corporation, the ultimate parent of *The Simpsons*, will hold 40 per cent after flotation, down from 50 per cent. Pearson's holding will be cut to 14 per cent, from 17.5 per cent, and that of

Granada Group will fall to 11 per cent, from 13.5 per cent. BSKYB said it does not intend to declare an interim dividend for the financial year ending June 30, 1995. The first payout will be the final dividend. Had its shares been listed for the whole of the year to June 30, 1994, it would have recommended a net dividend of 3.3p a share.

The prospectus shows that a bonus of £7.5 million will be paid to 11 current and former

managers as a reward for their past contribution. Of this, £3.8 million will be shared between Mr Chisholm, Richard Brooke, the finance director, and David Chance, deputy managing director.

The shares will be listed in London and New York and dealings will start on December 8. Goldman Sachs is the lead manager of the global offer and, together with BZW Securities, is also joint broker to the UK retail offer.

Hedge fund losses hit RIT trust

RIT Capital Partners, the investment trust chaired by Lord Rothschild, tumbled to a £3.6 million pre-tax loss in the first half to September 30, after a £5.3 million fall in the value of its now-sold investment in Vajra hedge fund (writes Patricia Teban).

The loss compares with a £4.4 million profit in the same period last year. It also includes £2.7 million interest on its \$150 million fixed-rate finance raised in May.

RIT's net asset value dipped from 221.6p on March 31 to 222.1p on September 30. The trust does not pay an interim dividend. It said the first-half loss "will not affect future dividends".

Sketchley plans to build on 11 per cent profits rise

By SARAH BAGNALL

DAVID Davies, chairman of Sketchley, the dry cleaning and photo processing group, yesterday gave warning that trading remained competitive and consumers cautious.

Unveiling an 11 per cent rise in half-year profits, Mr Davies said that although the first-half performance was solidly based, the "general retail environment in the UK remains unpredictable". To counter the market conditions, the group intends to strengthen its management team and bring out further cost savings.

Pre-tax profits rose from £3.6 million to £4 million in the six months to September 30. The increase was achieved

on the back of a small fall in turnover from £75.6 million to £74.5 million. This reflected the closure of about 60 loss-making retail branches during the year.

The interim dividend, which will be paid on December 21, was held at 1p, paid out of earnings of 4.5p a share, up from 4.4p last time. The shares closed unchanged at 99p.

The best performance was achieved by the group's textile services division, the works clothes business, which lifted operating profits from £2.2 million to £2.5 million on sales ahead £2.9 million at £28.2 million. Profits were helped by

a four-month contribution of £400,000 from Warrender Aircraft Services, the cleaning company to the airline industry, acquired in April.

Profits from the retail division rose from £2.4 million to £2.8 million on reduced sales of £45.8 million, down from £48.9 million. The slide in sales reflected the branch closures.

The Warrender acquisition, coupled with higher working capital needs to fund growth, lifted net borrowings from £11.3 million at the year-end to £15.5 million. Gearing increased from 33 per cent to 42 per cent, but Mr Davies said it was expected to fall.

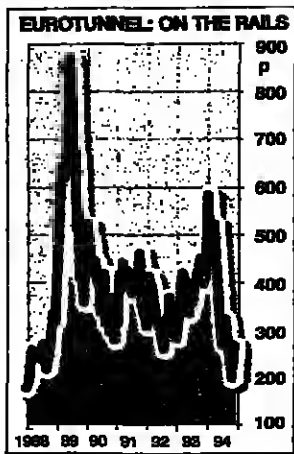
Eurotunnel steams ahead

By COLIN NARBROUGH

SHARES in Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operator, climbed 17p to 270p yesterday after the first Eurostar trains carrying fare-paying passengers between London and Paris arrived on time after hitch-free journeys.

The Anglo-French company, which built the £10 billion Tunnel, also issued figures to show that revenues are finally trickling in. In the three months to September 30, the second quarter of commercial operations, freight services brought in £3.99 million, excluding VAT.

A series of embarrassing delays in opening the Tunnel for full freight and passenger services is expected to hold revenues down to about 75 per cent of projected levels this year. The Tunnel had been scheduled to open in March last year. As Eurotunnel only began commercial activities this year, no comparison with the third quarter last year was possible. In the second quarter this year, revenues were £2.3 million. The problems that beset the Tunnel and its trains caused Eurotunnel shares to be marked down from this year's peak of more than 592p to a low of 195p. Sentiment for the stock has, however, improved, as services have



started to overcome their prolonged teething problems. The shuttle service to carry passenger cars between Calais and Folkestone has yet to open, having already missed the crucial summer season this year. The shuttle service for trucks has been in service since the summer.

Sir Alastair Morton, the co-chairman of Eurotunnel, has insisted throughout the litany of troubles affecting his company that consumer and stock market perceptions of the venture would soon change for the better now that services were up and running.

Tunnel pioneers, page 11

Paper's claims knock Asprey

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

SHARES in Asprey, the jeweller, fell 11p to 146p yesterday after a weekend newspaper claimed the company was in financial difficulties and under pressure from its bankers.

Asprey denied the claims and has said that it will take legal action against *The Mail on Sunday*, which published the allegations. The article claimed that the company was in potential default on a £20 million loan and may face receivership. Asprey dismissed the allegations as "absurd".

The furore comes at a difficult time for the company. More than a third of its market value was wiped out in September after it was forced to issue a profits warning. Naim Attallah, chief executive, blamed the downturn on the loss of a few big spending customers. "Many heads of states are not spending the kind of money they used to," he said, adding that there was little prospect of any upturn.

Although Asprey has sought to widen its customer base through acquisition, the company is still heavily dependent on a small group of wealthy clients. The Bond Street store probably has one

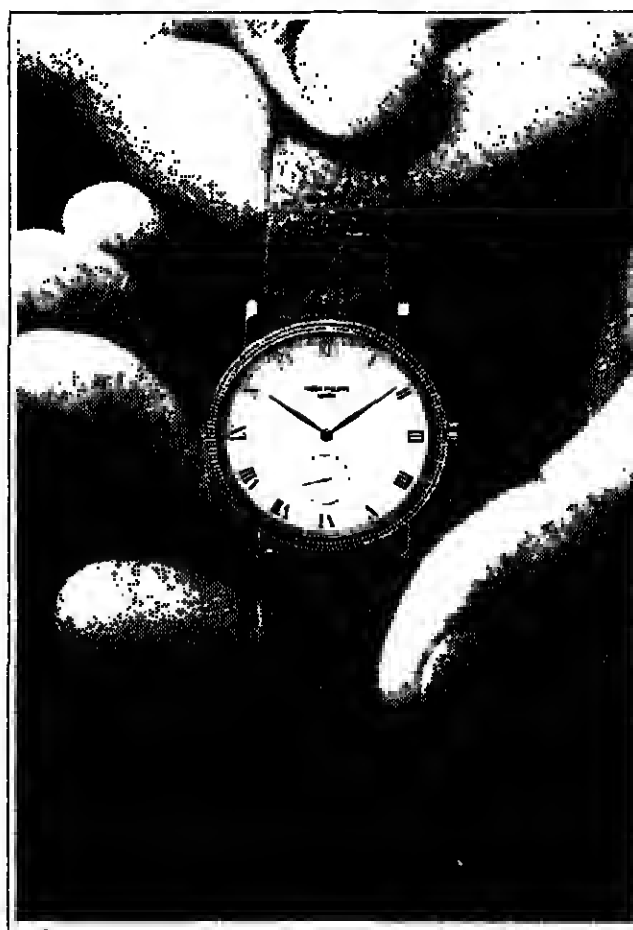
of the most illustrious client lists of any retail establishment in the world. Customers have included Queen Victoria, the Sultan of Brunei and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Asprey also holds Royal Warrants from the Queen, the Queen Mother and the Prince of Wales.

The customers who walk through Asprey's elegant doors are not those who drive the company's profits. The real money comes from a group of 30 or 40 big buyers, including foreign governments and heads of state, who conduct their transactions in private. There are few customers who can afford a set of diamond and ruby jewels for £2 million or a bejewelled backgammon set at £175,000. The prices of commissioned items are even higher.

But as the booms in oil, property and the financial markets have come and gone in the past two decades, so has Asprey's elite band of wealthy customers.

The company has tried to counteract this by moving into a broader market, with the acquisitions of Mappin & Webb and Watches of Switzerland. However, both those companies have experienced difficulties in the past year.

For more than a century and a half, Patek Philippe has been known as the finest watch in the world. The reason is very simple. It is made differently. It is made using skills and techniques that others have lost or forgotten. It is made with attention to detail very few people would notice. It is made, we have to admit, with a total disregard for time. If



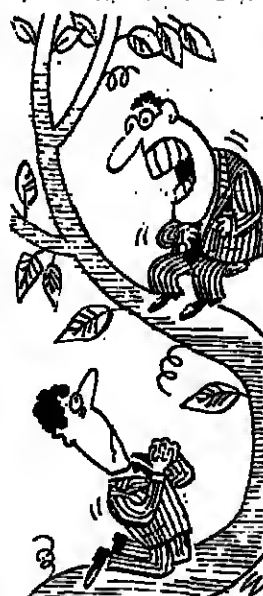
a particular Patek Philippe movement requires four years of continuous work to bring to absolute perfection, we will take four years. The result will be a watch that is unlike any other. A watch that conveys quality from first glance and first touch. A watch with a distinction: generation after generation it has been worn, loved and collected by those who are very difficult to please; those who will only accept the best. For the day that you take delivery of your Patek Philippe, you will have acquired the best. Your watch will be a masterpiece, quietly reflecting your own values. A watch that was made to be treasured.

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GENEVE

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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYBare your teeth
at the boss

CITY stress is not a figment of the imagination, and there is a solution after all. Next time the boss makes you feel sick or threatened — bare your teeth. *Esquire* magazine reveals the findings of a study of two sets of free-ranging primates which suggests that while life may be lonely at the top, the lower down life's greasy pole you are, the more likely you are to suffer illness and premature death. The research "subjects" were 10,000 civil servants, who fell under the watchful eye of Professor Michael Marmot, of University College London, and a number of Kenyan olive baboons who frolic on the Serengeti plains in East Africa. Their behaviour was monitored by Professor Robert Sapolsky, of Stanford University. Civil servants and baboons were chosen because both live in hierarchical structures, both are bothered about status, and in both groups those at the top live longer. The report said: "Low-paid clerks are three times more likely than their bosses to fall sick and die prematurely." For the young inexperienced baboon, bullying by his elders can ruin his health in the same way that a junior clerk is more likely to fall ill under constant pressure from senior staff. The occasional baring of teeth is more restful than the chronic strain that comes from unpredictable attack, be it physical or psychological, *Esquire* records. So if teeth baring doesn't work, I suggest climbing up a filing cabinet, and then swinging by your tail.



Numbers game

CRAIG Watson, jet-setting spokesman for GTECH, the American company behind the National Lottery launch, is always one for a challenge. Arriving at the Tower of London for yesterday's inaugural reception, he appeared unfazed by talk that Richard Branson, tilted in the UK contest, is thinking of setting up a lottery in South Africa. "We're thinking about launching an airline," he said. "We know as much about that as he does about lotteries."

Beaujolais bash

THURSDAY is Beaujolais day, and the Great Hall at the Chartered Insurance Institute in Aldermanbury is being turned into a Parisian street scene. If last year's breakfast bash is any guide, cook will be busy. A year ago, 400 guests consumed 1,000 of caviar, 1,000 eggs, 50 lbs of fresh and 200 lbs of cheese, 100 yards of French sticks, and Linford Christie would have taken nine seconds to run the length of sausages if laid head to tail.

STOCK market investors may be crying in their beer, but over the year the champagne market is 7 per cent up in volume terms. For the first time in 25 years, Moët & Chandon will today be launching a £1 million advertising campaign.

COLIN CAMPBELL

First steps towards an
electronic Eurobourse

David Rudnick says
a meeting today
could be crucial for a
project to help small,
high-growth firms

A bevy of bankers, stockbrokers and venture capitalists from all over Europe will descend on London's Park Lane Hotel today for a key meeting to prepare the launch of a pan-European stock exchange for small, high-growth companies.

The project is the brainchild of the European Venture Capital Association (EVCA), with moral support and modest funding (£23,360) from the European Commission. The aim is to establish a screen-based market, Easdaq, modelled on Nasdaq, America's highly successful electronic exchange.

Kate Morris, chief executive of London's City Group for Smaller Companies (Ciscog) says: "Nasdaq gave companies with only a regional profile visibility across the whole US. Over here, emerging, capital-hungry companies selling high-tech products similarly need a pan-European profile, a market-making system straddling the Continent. November 15 could be D-Day."

This is no old-fashioned, knee-jerk anti-American response. Proponents of Easdaq, and the electronic Eurobourse it will represent, welcome Nasdaq participation, and Joseph Hardiman, Nasdaq's president, is seriously interested in taking a minority shareholding when enough support is shown to exist and regulatory and other hurdles are overcome.

Nevertheless, a cardinal aim of the project, according to its chief protagonist, Jos Peeters, managing director of Capricorn Venture Partners, which is based in Belgium, is to stop European high-tech companies falling further behind the American competition in key areas such as computers and biotechnology. He wants to halt the drain of small European companies, unable to get a listing at home, to Nasdaq. Meanwhile, one idea going the rounds is that a European company floated on Nasdaq could be given a joint listing on Easdaq.

Mr Peeters is not alone in deploring the absence of an adequate capital market for promising European companies, which he fears is preventing them from achieving lift-off. He estimates that about 20 to 30 per cent of Europe's 15,000 venture-backed companies could qualify for a Eurobourse listing.

Mr Peeters may have a point when he complains that national exchanges gladly list international blue-chip shares and their own "national beauties", but shun emerging companies most in need of growth capital. Recent experience suggests that institutions such as insurance companies and pension funds are fairweather friends to small fry, ready enough to fund them at the top of the investment cycle, but not so keen otherwise.

Relying on purely domestic sources of retail cash for their liquidity is also unwise, since no single EU country has a wide enough investor base to supply the voracious needs of fast-growing companies. Perhaps a pan-European



Kate Morris, of Ciscog, says a system straddling the Continent is needed

pool of investors could help to solve the perennial liquidity problems of deserving start-up companies.

Scipios point out that Nasdaq's success needs to be seen in its American context. The US certainly has a more developed equity culture than Europe, where most gentlemen still prefer bonds. Eurobourse enthusiasts admit this awkward fact, but they are lobbying for the restrictive rules governing investment by European pension funds to be relaxed, to allow them to hold a much bigger proportion of their portfolios in equities.

Meanwhile, Eurobourse's supporters still have to prove that it can succeed in mobilising liquid capital for

small companies, where Britain's Unlisted Securities Market, France's second marché and the Parallelmarket in The Netherlands have failed. Marc Cramis, director of corporate finance at Singer & Friedlander and an expert in structuring capital-raising schemes for small companies, says: "Anything that gives them an additional market to choose from is welcome. True, secondary markets have not had much success of late, but if EVCA can provide a co-ordinated approach and get it right, Eurobourse will be seen as a primary, not a second-best market."

The Confederation of British Industry is supportive in principle. However, a spokesman says: "These are early

days and our priority is to get alternative investment market arrangements in place in this country. We'll back any plan that raises capital for small firms, as long as it doesn't conflict with that priority."

The need for additional sources of financing is not in dispute. Christopher Theis, head of Hoare Goven's smaller companies unit, says: "Whether it is Easdaq, Nasdaq, or the London Stock Exchange's proposed Alternative Investment Market (AIM), small entrepreneurial companies need a route into the arena."

Mr Theis suggests that when AIM is introduced next year, it could turn out to be an effective rejoinder to criticism from Ciscog that the London Stock Exchange's rules are too rigorous for most fledgling companies, driven in the past to Nasdaq, and now potential listees on Easdaq. On the other hand, AIM's critics say that it will be less tightly regulated than before, require less company information and, therefore, involve investors in greater risk. For the Stock Exchange, it looks like a no-win game.

Giles Vardey, the Stock Exchange's marketing director, accepts that EVCA has identified a real problem, but he is not convinced that a pan-European approach is an appropriate first step towards solving it.

AIM may provide less regulation than the old USM, but he expects it to target a wider range of small UK and other European companies than EVCA's planned exchange. "London is, in any case, unrivalled as Europe's major centre for equity trading and institutional investment," he concludes, "with turnover several times higher than the other European exchanges combined."

Other European exchanges, led by the Société des Bourses Françaises, are far more forthcoming. Lacking London's worldwide scale and existing facilities for venture capital, they are more open to a pan-European solution to small company funding. Like Nasdaq, the French are considering a minority stake in Eurobourse.

Today's meeting could be crucial for the Eurobourse project, but it will not attempt to solve all its formidable problems at a stroke. The politically sensitive question of where to locate a pan-European market may not be a problem in practice though.

Mr Theis says: "A purely screen-based operation could be located anywhere or nowhere. The Eurobond market isn't based anywhere in particular, so why should a Euro-equity market be?" Mr Peeters thinks it would be sensible to wait until mid-1995 before deciding where to locate Eurobourse for jurisdictional purposes. For by then, European governments are supposed to have aligned their legislation on financial services with new EU directives scheduled for 1996.

Ensuring an efficient clearance and settlement procedure could prove really hard. "How do you get a Belgian dentist to pay for an Italian equity bought in London?" Mr Theis wonders.

The thorny problems of harmonising accountancy and regulatory regimes also look over the horizon. The most pragmatic solution may turn out to be a common system of dealing all over Europe, but with separate national tax, accounting and regulatory regimes.

Giant awakens
with hunger for
market share

Is WH Smith's light coming out from
under the bush? asks Susan Gilchrist

Something is happening in the way we do, says Sir Malcolm. He believes it gives the group an important edge in targeting the consumer. In the book market, for example, WH Smith is aimed at the more casual book buyer. "We have made sure that our book business are entirely complementary. If we just had one brand we would not have the market share we have now."

The approach to the music market is similar. Five years ago, the group was an insignificant player, today it is the largest operator through three brands, each appealing to a different market segment. WH Smith is popular among the very young and the old, but is less influential with the important 18 to 25-year group. That gap has now been filled with Our Price and Virgin, in which the group holds 75 per cent.

The strategy also brings other benefits according to Sir Malcolm. "Having segmented these audiences, the skill is to share costs. You have all these different brands on the high street, but behind the scenes you are sharing costs and hence improving profit."

Although the group has steadily improved its profitability and held gross margins throughout the recession, many analysts still believe it has failed to exploit the economies of scale offered by its size. Sir Malcolm rejects this assertion. "The reason this criticism has arisen is because we continue to invest rather than let all the benefits from scale go to the bottom line."

But is the relentless drive for market share a sound strategy? Many companies in the 1980s came to grief on the back of such ambition. But Sir Malcolm believes WH Smith's policy has an important ingredient that others lacked. "It works because we have a sizeable market share relative to others. You have to have a share big enough to enable you to deliver that share at lower cost than the competition."

The sleeping giant is not only waking up, it is bearing its teeth.

WH Smith's market share strategy has been no accident. The group has deliberately tried to build strong positions, verging on dominant, in all of its markets. Unlike most retailers, it does not look at its business in terms of its individual chains. Instead, it prefers to look at the world in terms of product sectors.

It focuses on its performance in books, music, video and stationery overall rather than that of the WH Smith chain. Waterstone's or Our Price. "I don't know any other retailer — perhaps with the exception of Sears

You don't build
shares of the size
we have if you
are not aggressive

Coca-Cola is targeting Britain, Jon Ashworth reports

Will things go better with £4m?

Will Coca-Cola replace tea as the nation's favourite beverage? Hardly likely. But the men and women charged with promoting the world's most valuable brand name believe the British market is ripe for the picking. Coca-Cola may not replace tea, coffee or beer, but there are a lot of dry throats out there.

Enter the latest promotion by the world's biggest soft drinks manufacturer. Last night saw the television debut of a £4 million pound advertising campaign aimed at driving home the message: Coke is different.

The marketing experts insist that the new campaign is merely part of an ongoing attempt to enlarge the £6 billion a year UK soft drinks market. Britons' taste for Coca-Cola has already made it the country's biggest grocery brand — worth about £400 million at the last count — but per capita consumption of the drink is among the lowest in the world. George Bradt and his team at Coca-Cola's UK headquarters, tucked away above Hammersmith Underground station, have a simple aim: to grow the market, to make us swap the odd cup of tea for a can of Coke.

Be that as it may, it is hard to interpret the new television advertisement as anything less than a direct attack on the copycat brands that have surfaced in British supermarkets this year. The ad starts with a family driving in a car, drinking Coca-Cola. All is colour and sunshine. Then the light



Cola wars: the new UK advertising drive stresses that Coke is different

fades — they disappear into a thick band of fog, and pull up at a huge, featureless supermarket to buy some Coke. A nightmarish world beckons — automations reaching for bland, anonymous boxes marked "cola". A little boy asks for some Coca-Cola. "What's that?" asks a robotic assistant. Another offers a no-name brand of cola while a voice booms: "All colas are not the same." The family leaves in disgust and re-emerges into the sunshine, happily drinking the real thing once more.

The message hits you right between the eyes: do not settle for anything less. It is impossible to watch the advertisement

and not think of Sainsbury's Classic Cola, which caused such a stir when it appeared on the shelves in April. Neither can one quite dispel the grinning face of Richard Branson, clutching one of his new cans of Virgin Cola.

Mr Bradt sticks to his guns, insisting the ad is about growing the market rather than knocking competitors. "We are responding only in that we're in a continual drive to highlight Coca-Cola," he says. "The message is: wait, stop, think. This one's different."

For all that, test research suggests many television viewers will immediately think of the "cola wars". A sample audience who watched pre-runs of the ad came up with comments like "everything else is artificial", and "if you buy that type of Coke, you must be a robot".

Mr Bradt admits that the arrival of Sainsbury's Classic Cola severely dented sales of Coca-Cola at the stores chain — but only there. He claims that sales across the supermarket sector were actually up 30 per cent year on year a month after the Sainsbury's launch. The arrival of Virgin Cola, he insists, will simply help his overall mission. "If Branson comes in and sells a billion cans of Virgin Cola, that's brilliant," he says. "I

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**BOURNEMOUTH
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JAZZ page 32
George Benson,
virtuoso guitarist and
MOR crooner, is
outplayed by Buddy Guy

ARTS

THEATRE page 33
Ions in the fire: Greek
and English versions of
Euripides's neglected
tragi-comedy



Pioneer with a gender agenda

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the extraordinary life and photography of Claude Cahun, the subject of a first British retrospective at the ICA

While studying at the Sorbonne during the First World War, Lucy Schwob suddenly decided to shed her identity. Adopting the pseudonym "Claude", a name chosen to obscure her gender, she produced the first of the photographic self-portraits which dramatised the diversity of her sexual self. At the time, no other woman would have dared to turn herself into an embodiment of enigmatic gender-bending. Claude's subversive photographs can be seen today as a defiantly original contribution to the Surrealist movement. But until their recent rediscovery, the woman who made them was nothing more than an obscure footnote in the history of 20th-century art.

Now, 100 years after Lucy Schwob was born in Nantes, the ICA has staged her first English exhibition. It cannot claim to be comprehensive: Claude Cahun, as she called herself, was also a poet, performer and polemicist. But the photographs are more than enough to justify the belated attention she is attracting today. They go much further than Man Ray's celebrated drag portrait of Marcel Duchamp, cross-dressed in 1920 as his alter ego Rosse Sélavy. For Cahun's work takes the convention of the self-portrait and explodes the whole notion of a single, watertight persona.

In the earliest images, she hovers tantalisingly between *gamin* and *gamine*. Shaven-headed, and posed either against patterned fabrics or stone walls, this indefinable creature stares brazenly at the camera. She dares us to decide who the androgynous masquerader might really be.

At this stage, artifice is kept to a minimum. During the 1920s, though, Cahun's growing assurance prompted her to adopt even more outrageous guises. Her uncle, Maurice Schwob, had been a friend of Oscar Wilde and a prominent member of the Symbolist movement. Claude seems to have inherited a taste for dandified theatricality, and by 1927 she was ready to unleash it to the full.

One bizarre image shows her in an apparently coquettish mood with forelocks shaven into kiss-curls and love-hearts painted on each cheek of her clown-like face. But her expression verges on the contemptuous, and the painted dots standing for nipples on her vest mock the idea of desirability. As if to ward off sexual trespassers, the capital letters scrawled across her chest declare, in English, that "I AM IN TRAINING. DON'T KISS ME."

Such strategies may have arisen, in part, as a reaction to the scorn of male Surrealists. They were notoriously reluctant to let women play a significant part in their movement. So Cahun could have wielded her gender-play as a weapon, disarming anyone who wanted to patronise her with patriarchal prejudice. When she photographed herself with masculine, back-brushed hair, heavy motor-bike goggles and a sneer to match, the result appeared to cock a snook at preening virility in general.

Even so, Cahun's underlying attitude remains impossible to pin down. Within a year of making the macho self-portrait, she transforms herself into a doll. She looks discarded, slumped low in an armchair, devoid of expression. It is as if Cahun has taken the cliché of woman as mindless mannequin to the ultimate extreme. In another 1928 photograph she even seems to take on demonic powers. *Womanhood* has been restored to her in this hallucinatory little image. She sits naked and erect, tanned legs tucked in neatly and arms covering her breasts. But Cahun has half-hidden her face with a painted mask, and no pupils are visible behind the eye-holes. Brilliantly lit, she assumes the stance of a primitive deity. This is the artist as sun-goddess, effortlessly able to command supernatural and hypnotic power.

Anyone who makes self-portraits as often and as carefully as Claude Cahun could be suspected of rampant narcissism. She seems to accuse herself of vanity in an especially arresting photograph, placing her face close to a mirror. But instead of looking at her own image, Cahun turns away from the mirror and stares out at us. As well as acknowledging the camera's silent presence, she might be feigning surprise at the viewers' intrusive gaze. At any rate, we become conscious of our role as voyeurs.

By this time, Cahun's activities as poet, essayist and actress in experimental theatre had secured her an increasingly acknowledged place in Parisian avant-garde life. She met André Breton and other Surrealists in 1932, and conceived an "impossible love" for Breton himself. Everything about her photographs implied an irrepressible belief in complete imaginative freedom. During the 1930s she claimed the right to present herself, successively, as a shaven-headed vampire, a nursery-rhyme idiot and a pig-tailed girl.

In a weirdly distorted anamorphic photograph, which makes her head rise up into an elongated oval, she looks mentally disturbed. The stubble where her hair should be makes her, in this context, resemble a patient in an asylum, fearfully awaiting a brain operation. It may reflect Cahun's incipient interest in psychiatry, for within a few years she was attending public discussions about mental illness at Paris hospitals.

Her subsequent decision to settle in Jersey, with her lifelong companion Suzanne Malherbe, seems tantamount to a removal from the avant-garde. The year was 1937, and Cahun may have wanted to exchange the increasing turbulence of continental Europe for an island she remembered from childhood holidays.

When the Germans invaded Jersey, though, both Claude and Suzanne showed remarkable courage. Involving themselves in the Resistance, they produced propaganda encouraging the enemy soldiers to mutiny, organised "actions" and flew a banner from a church spire bearing the words "Jesus is great — but Hitler is greater. Jesus died for the people, but the people die for Hitler."

Eventually, both women were arrested by the Gestapo and condemned to death. Their reprieve in 1945 must have seemed miraculous, but after Jersey's liberation Cahun discovered that the Nazis had destroyed a large part of her work. She never recovered from her imprisonment, and the postwar self-portraits lack the concentrated power of the earlier work. But at least the real woman behind the multiple guises is revealed, even as she pluckily attempts to assume more roles.

Mise-en-scène is the title adopted by the ICA for this beguiling exhibition, which honours Cahun as a bold pioneer of the masquerading self-portrait practised by contemporary women artists like Cindy Sherman. Less convincing is the gallery's decision to link Cahun in a triple-bill with two young British artists. Her Surrealism has nothing to do with Virginia



Me, myself and I: Claude Cahun's androgynous self-portraits, currently on show at the ICA, can be seen today as a defiantly original contribution to the Surrealist movement

for an island she remembered from childhood holidays. When the Germans invaded Jersey, though, both Claude and Suzanne showed remarkable courage. Involving themselves in the Resistance, they produced propaganda encouraging the enemy soldiers to mutiny, organised "actions" and flew a banner from a church spire bearing the words "Jesus is great — but Hitler is greater. Jesus died for the people, but the people die for Hitler."

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Myriad Dona's abstract paintings look as if they have been abandoned three quarters of the way through. A number of familiar strategies have obviously been avoided in order to make them function differently. A set of four paintings is clustered side by side. Each of these large works follows a simplistically different tack. Possible painting styles are used in turn. Combinations of colour and opacity are applied around first an oval and then a triangle. A dripping process is sharply incongruous printed quality. Jocelyn Clarke really does draw and paint at the same time, to create the sensation and atmosphere of "early Modern" formalist discovery. She painstakingly feels her way across the surface skin in order to describe the already obscured surface of an object. The colour is minimal, barely significant, and gets dense only where there is a build-up of descriptive lines. Two and three dimensions melt in and out of each other. The effect, though firmly and delicately bound to its formal premise, is one of exciting, "uncomposed" freshness.

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AROUND THE GALLERIES

Adam Gallery, 62 Walcott Square, London SE11 (071-582 1260), until November 19

Francis Graham Dixon Gallery, 17 Great Sutton Street, London EC1 (071-250 1962), until November 26

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OPERA: A concert performance of Smetana's first stage work

CHELSEA Opera Group has been developing the admirable habit of enticing veteran conductors back to the concert hall in rarely performed works. The latest is Václav Tausky, who at 84 is a compact, rubicund figure of a benign version of Mr Punch. He still wields his baton with the precision Punch used his stick.

In the postwar years few did more to champion Czech music than Tausky. The Smetana's first opera, *The Brandenburgers*, in *Bohemia*, looked the right choice, and so it proved. Tausky brought vigour to the score, and especially to the many patriotic choruses.

Brandenburgers is in the direct line of operas such as *Tell* and *Vespre siciliense* in which the locals rise up against the occupying forces (usually Austro-German), usually spurred on by a little love interest. The libretto throws in a bit of class struggle as well. But, alas, Smetana at this stage of his career did not have the technique of Verdi and Rossini.

Early hint of class

Chelsea Opera Group
QEH

Act I has plenty of meat and some graceful music, mainly involving Ludise, one of the three daughters of the Mayor of Prague. There is an exuberant dance, in Smetana's best vein, as the citizens off to rifle the cellars of the bourgeoisie, an early example of the looting ballet. But the second and third acts struggle as the three sisters are abducted first by the Brandenburgers and then by the quizzing Tausendmark, who has his eye on Ludise.

Her true love, Junos, is pallidly drawn, apart from an Act II duet in which his true Czech voice is again heard. Richard Braebrook could not do much with the part. Helen Kucharek, a poised soprano with clean lyric timbre, made a much better impression.

The more interesting of the lead tenor roles is that of Jira, a runaway serf, who incites the people to revolution and is duly proclaimed vagabond king. Donald Stephenson filled him with robust character. Mark Beesley sang with grave authority as the Mayor. But the two villains were scarcely malevolent. Smetana did not help by giving Tausendmark a highly sympathetic baritone aria in the last act, which Jeffrey Carl delivered with grace. Terry Jenkins turned the captain of the occupying forces into a buffo role, which cannot be right as he is the only Brandenburg in the opera who sings.

JOHN HIGGINS

Royal Academy of Arts
Piccadilly, London W1

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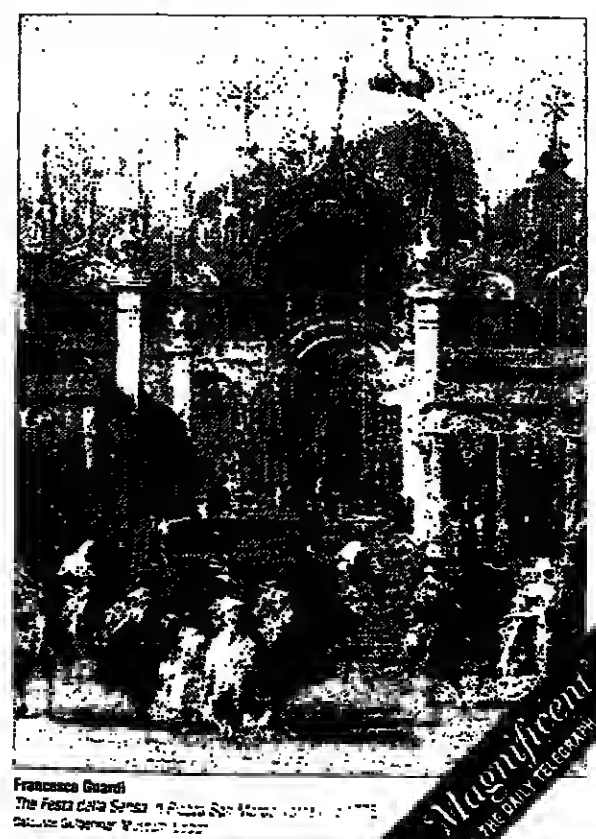
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SACHA CRADDOCK

Many, many, many old Ions

After aeons in limbo, Euripides's tragi-comedy *Ion* is now in vogue. Michael Church reports on two very different touring productions

When Euripides's *Ion* was revived this autumn at the Barter Theatre, the critics fell on it with cries of joy. They had never seen it — most had never heard of it — and they rightly hailed it as a forgotten gem. It now emerges that two other productions of this play have been quietly, and quite independently, gestating. Lightening striking twice? No, more an idea whose time has come.

The play preserves a delicate balance between high tragedy and broad comedy. *Ion* is an ingenious youth who works as a caretaker in the temple of Apollo at Delphi: he thinks he is an orphan, but actually he is the fruit of a rape by Apollo. His human mother left him open to the elements. Moses-like, in a wicker basket, but his uncle Hermes took him in.

The action of the play turns on his gradual discovery of his true identity, and on the shabby behaviour of everyone involved, including that of his stand-in human father. It is a delicious mockery of politics, state religion, and macho sexuality: a play for today, whenever in history that day happens to be.

But when the Actors Touring Company unveils its version at Hammersmith's Lyric Studio this month, it will be in an unprecedented form: back-to-back, and sharing the same director, with a Greek production of the play by the Piramitiki company of Thessaloniki.

I caught this strange double-bill at Piramitiki's home base, sitting first among the English actors to watch the Greeks, then vice versa. The set was the same in each case: a solar symbol surrounded by metal rays. The costumes were roughly similar. But the productions themselves were strikingly different.

Where the English version was street-smart, the Greek was stately. The English Hermes somersaulted on to the stage as a barrow-boy; the Greek Hermes, a sun-kissed Ariel, assumed a diagonal pose to suggest swift flight. Both actors, by the way, were female. The Greek Creusa (Ion's mother) moved in a sad trance, but seemed to have found happiness at the end; the English Creusa was a cauldron of wild emotions,

and delivered her final speech after reuniting with her son ("I'm happy, happy") with an ironic smile.

Few of the Greek actors could speak English, and none of the Brits understood Greek, but the hall was loud with gasps of delighted recognition. "It's as though I'd gone out of my body, turned back, and looked at myself," said the Greek Creusa. "You don't understand the words, and the interpretation is different, but you look up on stage and know exactly what you're going through," said Gary Turner, the English Ion.

Iphigenia Tsakopoulou, the project's Greek coordinator, said the whole thing was a lesson in what theatre is about: "Directors can do all they like, but theatre is ultimately determined by actors, and by language."

"I feel like a bigamist whose two families have just met for the first time," said Nick Philippou, the director of both productions. "I took care not to impose my overview; I wanted the actors to find their own way. My work with them was about finding universal images to transcend language. The differences between the productions reflect the different cultures from which they spring."

Much of this has to do with gender. The sex-war in Greece, he said — and, as a Greek-Cypriot, he is well-placed to know — is traditionally fierce. "But at the end of the day these macho men, and these very determined women, always sit down together. The intellectualised feminism in Britain drives people to stay entrenched in their corners. The English are much more confused about gender. What Euripides is saying is that people should look for a sense of balance in their lives."

The English version of the play (in Kenneth McLeish's vigorous translation) is complete and uncut: the shorter — by ten minutes — modern Greek one omitted explanatory references local audiences did not need. But the Greek version is more formal: Philippou was told by his Greek actors that they were not prepared to inject colloquial irony at several points where he wanted it in the text. Having seen the English version, however, the Greek actors are now eager to incorporate some London tricks. That would be a pity. They work beautifully as an ensemble, and should stay true to their own style.

But it is not by chance that this co-production should emanate from Thessaloniki. In 1997, this most wide-awake of Greek cities will wear the battered crown of European Cultural Capital. It is already gearing up for the challenge. Its Roman ruins, Byzantine churches and Turkish baths are being spruced up, and the few remaining mansions in which its mercantile elite lived a century ago are being returned to pristine beauty.

This elite was largely Jewish, and was all but wiped out in 1943, when the Nazis rounded up 50,000 Thessalonian Jews and murdered them in concentration camps. Nothing in the city's previous history could compare with this dreadful event, but Thessaloniki's path was never smooth. And the city is now in the firing line from a different direction, as the former Yugoslav state of Macedonia claims the Greek-Macedonian emblem as its own.

The civil engineer in charge of the Cultural Capital project is steering carefully clear of current politics. The project, he says, will make Thessaloniki the cultural centre of the Balkan peninsula, and try to revive the cultural pluralism the Nazis destroyed.

● The ATC *Ion*, sponsored by the British Council, is on tour: *Stahl Theatre, Dundee* (today and tomorrow); *Rose Theatre, Kidderminster* (Thursday); *Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton* (Friday); *Arts Centre, Jersey* (Nov 22, 23); *Drama Centre, Cambridge* (Nov 25, 26). From Nov 29 to Dec 10 it will be at the Lyric Studio, Hammersmith (tel: 081-741 5701), with the Greek version running from Dec 6 to 8. For further information ring 071-735 8311

It is a play for today, whenever that happens to be



Sparkling light shed on a neglected masterpiece: Actors Touring Company's *Ion*

CONCERTS: Beethoven and Honegger

Belated lift-off owed to joy

PO/Harnocourt Festival Hall

CURIOSLY, Nikolaus Harnocourt's performance on Sunday of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the last in his cycle with the Philharmonia Orchestra, did not do what Beethoven's symphonies usually do in his hands.

The outward gestures that make Harnocourt's Beethoven so special were all present and correct. There were the clarity of articulation and careful balancing, helped by Harnocourt's favoured early 19th-century style of layout, which brings out gestures and lines normally glossed over by others; there was the natural shaping of phrase so that forms and harmonies, however bizarre, looked after themselves; there was the curtness — heightened by the thwack of hard-headed sticks on timpani — in the scherzo, and the easy-flowing pace that made the Adagio molto cogent.

And, not least, there was Harnocourt's careful highlighting of tiny features such as the violas' repeated low Fs at the beginning of that slow movement. All ample evidence of meticulous rehearsal with a more than willing orchestra.

And yet the occasion somehow seemed to defeat the intended atmosphere. I found little feeling of space, and less sense of spontaneity or flexibility. The work refused to surge, rocket-like, into orbit.

Until, that is, that finale. Here at last the spark was lit, and what had been carefully honed in rehearsal was taken for granted as Harnocourt, aided by the Philharmonia Chorus and by an excellent line-up of soloists — Hans Peter Blochwitz, Stephen Roberts, Luba Organasova and Ann Murray — let his hair down, ending this great odyssey in a manner as uplifting as it was original. All previous misgivings seemed irrelevant. Before this, the young Austrian pianist Till Fellner, winner of the Clara Haskil International Competition last year and having already given his own cycle of Beethoven's piano concertos, played the solo part of the Third Piano Concerto. For once, here was a thoroughly musical, worthy competition winner, without self-regarding affectation but with a clean if slightly dry sound and a strong sense of what the music means.

James MacMillan's *The Exorcism of Rio Sumpul* featured in the early-evening Music of Today series. The performance was sparsely attended, but it was a good one, given by a select 14 players from the Philharmonia. It is also a good work.

MacMillan's subject is the real-life tale of an El Salvadorian village's helicopter escape from armed forces at the height of the civil war in that country in 1986.

The composer painstakingly but usefully introduced the music with pertinent examples, so we could follow the mutating chord that unites the violent first movement, could be aware that somewhere at the heart of the second movement lay the South American song "The People United Will Never Be Defeated", and could open ears to the whirling finale's fun-poking as well as its more innocent celebratory aspects.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Faint Joan of Arc

RLPO/Pesek
Liverpool Cathedral

IF YOU cannot hear music in Liverpool Cathedral you can at least — given a work with a visual dimension, like *Joan of Arc at the Stake* — see it. Honegger's dramatic oratorio is a score Libor Pesek has long wanted to perform, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra's present season of concerts in Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's monument to spiritual inspiration and acoustic mystery was surely the occasion to do it.

Certainly, the Cathedral was a far more appropriate setting for Claudel and Honegger than the Philharmonia Hall would have been. Saint Joan perched in her white shift on a tower of scaffolding under the vaulted ceiling was a powerful and memorable image of vulnerability. But without the advantage of that kind of elevation most of Jo Buffery's other sensations got lost in the sheer size of the place: although she had rehearsed a whole army of extras from nearby schools and theatre groups, what she really needed was a multitude of actors of at least twice average height. Duplicating their actions at different points in the nave did not solve the problem.

Another problem the director had to cope with was the text. Even though the speaking voices of Kate Buffery, a convincingly passionate Joan,

and Robert Kingham, a less convincingly compassionate Brother Dominic, were amplified, they were actually only marginally clearer than the frustratingly jumbled sounds from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic choir and orchestra. Without microphones to confuse them, the tenor and bass voices of Lynton Atkinson and Christopher Purves proved to be more penetrating in terms of clarity. If not volume, and the celestial sopranos accumulated atmospheric reverberations as their utterances floated down from the high bridge that links the two sides of the building at the west end.

If the performance was successful in the end it was partly because of what Jo Buffery did not do in the burning scene. She spared us the long-expected conflagration of flickering red and orange lighting on Joan's tower and, by means of an effective little tableau on the bridge above the orchestra, diverted our attention to the ecstatic music which Honegger so ecstatically supplies at this point and which Pesek so miraculously concentrated and projected into the vast space behind him.

GERALD LARNER

THEATRE REVIEWS: Brian Cox gives Ibsen a rare and invigorating kicking; no future in Constable's *Tulip*

Cox's bricks and mortar-bombs

The Master Builder
Riverside

proved unfulfilling, attraction to Hilde Wangel, the demonic girl who arrives out of the blue to urge him on to his apotheosis on the rooftops.

Siri Neal misses some of Hilde's danger, but exudes assured bravado and sexual magic enough to explain her hold over a man twice her age. Menap Hood, playing Solness's wife, occupies the opposite end of the emotional

spectrum even more authoritatively. Her Aline combines an arid, brittle smile with an air of weary tolerance that amply explains why her husband dreads and avoids her.

The evening has its oddities. Solness's feared younger generation puts in regular appearances in the forms of a boy with a model building set and of a group of young men who gawk at the audience in

what is meant to be a menacing way, but put me in mind of village idiots posing for a group photo. Again, why bother to show a distant Cox clambering to the steeple of the house he has just built, and then ignore the stage-direction that says he can be "indistinctly seen plunging down among the trees?"

But that is a minor lapse of realism in a production that abjures the airy and symbolic for the concrete and clear, and never more so than when Cox is fiercely prowling his suburban cage. "One can't be sure what he might do, he's capable of anything," his wife says. Just so.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
DONALD COOPER



Brian Cox, who plays Solness as a force of nature, and Siri Neal — short on demonic attraction but high on sexuality — as Hilde Wangel in Ibsen's *The Master Builder*

Low-watt bulbs

Tulip Futures
Cockpit

JOHN Constable's play might have done better to open on Black Wednesday or one of the other black days when stock exchanges go into free fall. But even if this had shaken some up-to-the-minute spice over his subject matter — the collapse of the Dutch tulip market in 1637 — his treatment of these events would still disappoint, particularly after his achievement in adapting *Cormorant*.

From the welter of material in that novel he selected sufficient telling incidents to create a work for the stage. He does not do likewise from the raw stuff of 17th-century Haarlem, where Dr Tulip has bred what he takes to be a unique "Black Viceroy" tulip and believes his fortune is made. In the course of the play, or from the programme, we learn that exactly 400 years ago the first tulips, imported from Turkey the previous autumn, flowered in The Netherlands. Within a few more years the growers discovered that plants that had produced flowers of uniform colour season after season could, for reasons unknown at the time, "break" or change into a striped form.

For these varieties prices soared; a single "Semper Augustus" bulb was valued at 4,600 florins, equivalent to 460 sheep. Promissory notes replaced actual bulbs until, one fine February day, too many people wanted to exchange their paper for goods and the

market nose-dived.

What Constable does is give us a flavour of these events, but never a mouthful. We see Tulip (William Chubb) puffing tobacco smoke on to his tulip to keep pests away; and Frans Hals (Sean Baker) arranging for one bulb to be his fee for painting Dr and Mistress Tulip (Jane Wood). Hals's assistant, Anna Healy, has painted the flowers in Tulip's catalogue, but she is only a woman. A visitor from The Hague (Mark Anstee) wants to corner the market in "Viceroy's".

The little incidents follow one another, and a climax is reached when the stage is filled with sacks of provisions, rolled carpets, brass trays and pickled herring in an attempt to reach Tulip's price. But no dynamic urges the events forward. Despite many references to rising prices there is no real sense of a bull market roaring in the background. And while Abigail Morris, directing her first play since *Kindertersport*, begins each scene with a pretty tableau, freezing the characters into the attitudes of a genre painting, this only emphasises the play's jerky and essentially undramatic movement.

JEREMY KINGSTON

FESTIVAL: The lively Clerkenwell Music Series helps to celebrate Lisbon in London

Capital connections

Overture by the contemporary Portuguese composer Sérgio Azevedo.

Azevedo's piece eschews the conventional notion of a fanfare, and reworks a trumpet theme from Vaughan Williams's *The Shepherds of the Delectable Mountains*. Atmospheric elements intended by the composer were for-

gone, presumably on practical grounds. The piece nevertheless made its effect, enhanced by the brilliance of a group of five brass players.

The *Strinionieta* for Strings by Joly Braga Santos, receiving its British premiere, suggested the idiom not so much of Vaughan Williams or Walton as of Bartók. Yet it is an

attractively individual and ingeniously wrought piece.

Also receiving its British premiere was Francisco de Lacerda's *Trovás (Ballads)*, in which words (by the composer) and music draw on popular Portuguese idioms. The songs were delivered with an aptly demotic touch by the Portuguese soprano Elvira Archer.

Walton's short *Siesta*, cleanly and sensitively played by the New London Orchestra

under Ronald Corp — as was the whole programme — was followed by Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music* in its choral version, and the same composer's *In Windsor Forest*, a short cantata adapted from the opera *Sir John in Love*, the tenors and basses of the London Choral Society delivering the latter's Drinking Song with particular relish. The Clerkenwell Music Series continues until Thursday.

BARRY MILLINGTON

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The first two preview performances of **OLIVER!** at the London Palladium have been postponed. The first preview is now on Friday 18 November. Please would all ticket holders for performances on 16 & 17 November contact the box office, usual agents or call 071-494 5470

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Opportunity for 1-4 year qualified solicitor to attain responsibility for own caseload in thriving, large West End practice. Successful candidates will be required to play key role in acquisitions and disposals for, predominantly, large private companies and some multi-nationals. Will operate with minimal supervision from partners and will contribute to the strategic development of the corporate team. Prior experience of Yellow Book and City Code desirable. (Ref:13810)

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PIVOTAL IN-HOUSE

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LAW

● ON TRIAL ON TV 37
● LAW REPORT 38

Why should places in chambers be so difficult to win, asks Robin White



Weighed down by the paperwork: Bar vocational course student Robin White with his pile of applications — he has now secured a pupillage

One question is never far from the surface among the 1,055 prospective barristers who enrolled on the Bar vocational course (BVC) at the Inns of Court School of Law this year. The big issue is that of finding "pupillage" — the year spent under the wing of an existing barrister necessary to complete qualification for independent practice.

The unpalatable fact is that only 75 per cent of students will find pupillage, only 50 per cent of them with funding from chambers to see them through the year. The rest will have wasted the £3,980 course fees and at least as much again in living expenses. It is not the competitive nature of the hunt for pupillage that students find so frustrating, it is more the unprofessional muddle of the whole affair. The Bar Council helpfully produces an annual handbook listing all available pupillages from the 30-odd chambers offering them. But then the Bar's version of a weird Victorian pécuniaire game, causes. No application requirements are the same.

Deadlines for pupillage starting in autumn 1995 range from April 1994 to February 1995. Some chambers issue their own application forms, but most like the time-honoured formula of CV and handwritten covering letter. They may require references to be sent direct by referees or to accompany the application. Or they might seek mere names of referees and addresses — or even none at all. Some chambers want one personal

Chambers of horrors story

and one academic reference, others two academic, and yet others are mysteriously vague. Chambers awards (for the 450 funded pupillages of 700) vary from £3,000 to £24,000.

Compiling my 30 applications was an exercise that proved my ability to serve in Sir Humphrey Appleby's Department of Administrative Affairs, if not my suitability for a career at the Bar. The costs of the muddle are considerable. Students seeking pupillage in civil law chambers have routinely made 40 or more applications, and for criminal law chambers, 60 or more. A conservative estimate for the number of applications made by this year's 1,055 students could be 30,000. My 30 applications took more than 100 hours to prepare.

Chambers face similar problems. A civil chambers told me it received over 400 applications for two pupillages and that the selection process probably represented £20,000 in lost earnings. A student's problems do not

end when an offer of pupillage is received. The disparity in deadlines has meant that at least one student I know has had to decide to accept or reject an offer from a set which is low on her list of desirable chambers long before her preferred sets have even decided whether she will be invited for a preliminary interview.

The Barrow Report on the BVC published this year listed a significant predictor of a student's performance as the early removal of the worry of completing the course without a pupillage.

What is the solution to this mess? The clear answer is a system akin to the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (Ucas) arrangements for university applications. A single application form for each student submitted to a central office by a deadline in late September — when all university results have been finalised — and a restriction on a student's choice to fewer than ten chambers, would cut the paperwork

dramatically. This would, however, remove the individuality of some chambers in processing applications and students might resent the loss of the "safety in numbers" of large multiple applications.

The savings to chambers are obvious if the central office, run by two or three staff, passed them the 50 applications that most closely met their criteria. Chambers could also be sure that applicants were being honest about their true preferences because the opportunity to "adapt" applications to each chamber in a subtle fashion would be lost.

Monitoring of discrimination would be simplified. Interviews in October, initial offers in November and a clearing stage in January would allow offers for the following October to be finalised long before the BVC had reached its halfway stage. The present Pupillage clearing system, run by the Bar Council, is widely seen as half-hearted, relying as it does on those who have found pupillage to report the fact — the very people who no longer have any need of the system. Pupillage information does not become complete — and so

useful — until the Bar Council staff canvass chambers directly in May.

The inevitable growth in the number of institutions offering the BVC in years to come and the likely growth in the numbers applying for pupillage mean that the pupillage selection stage will become an increasingly significant filter on the numbers entering the profession, second only to the arresting statistic that only half of those finding pupillage will get tenancy.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, next year's Bar chairman, says an Ucas system is "under active review", but that "the Bar Council has limited ability to tell chambers to do anything". This is not good enough. If the Bar truly is a profession, it must grasp this nettle firmly. It may be that it is too late to put matters in hand for the 1996-97 pupillage round. The chance should not be lost for 1997-98.

● The author is a student on the Bar vocational course this year and has accepted pupillage with Devonport chambers for 1995-96.

Pregnant pause for the shock of the new

There has been an unexpected change in the laws protecting women against the disadvantages of pregnancy and women's need for maternity leave and pay. Until recently, they enjoyed little such legal protection; child-bearing and rearing is the main reason for the unequal position of women at work. The equality laws aimed to equalise the position of men and women in comparable circumstances, not to give pregnant women special rights. Maternity leave was available only to certain women.

All of this has changed — not because of government action or popular pressure or parliamentary debate but because the European Union is committed to equality of the sexes. This commitment was apparent right from the start. The original Treaty of Rome stipulated that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work. The equality principle was subsequently amplified and developed in European Community legislation, in particular the Equal Treatment Directive of 1986. The European Union had recognised women's need and desire to be freed from the economic dependence of centuries.

However, only in the past few years has attention focused on maternity rights. Developments have been dramatic and swift. The European Pregnancy Directive was passed in 1992. At the same time, the European Court, to protect pregnant women, was busy interpreting the Equal Treatment Directive. As a result of these developments, British women now enjoy vastly improved rights.

It is now unlawful to subject a woman to any detrimental treatment at work because she is pregnant. Therefore, a woman cannot be refused employment or promotion, fired or denied a place on a training or development course because she is pregnant. If she is, she has a claim for sex discrimination. There is no upper limit on the amount of compensation that may be awarded. A woman who alleges she has been dismissed for pregnancy also has a claim for unfair dismissal — even if she has only been employed for a short time, because the normal two-year qualifying period for bringing a claim does not apply in such circumstances.

All women now have the right to maternity leave, regardless of length of service and whether they are full-time or part-time. There is a basic entitlement to 14 weeks' maternity leave. During this time, all the normal benefits of employment must be continued. This includes pension-scheme membership, use of a company car and the accrual of holiday entitlement. The employer is not, however, required to pay remuneration.

Instead, so long as the woman has been in employment for 26 weeks, she receives statutory maternity pay (SMP). This is paid at the rate of 90 per cent of her normal earnings for six weeks. Employees whose service is too short to qualify for SMP receive a maternity allowance.

Women who have more than two years service qualify for a longer period of maternity leave. They can stay away for up to 40 weeks. However, most of this extra period of maternity leave is completely unpaid — unless the employer enhances the statutory rights. The woman receives basic SMP — and pension rights — for an extra four weeks, making 18 weeks in total. Otherwise, she has no statutory right to pay or benefits after the initial 14-week period.

After maternity leave, the woman is entitled to have her old job back. If the post has become redundant in the meantime, she is entitled to be offered any suitable alternative position which is available. Depending on her occupation, she may have the right to work part-time. An employer cannot insist on full-time working unless he can show that there is a good reason for the job to be performed full-time.

More changes may come. A case called Gillespie has been referred to the European Court. The court will be asked to decide whether European sex-discrimination laws give women the right to be paid during maternity leave. The court will consider whether women on maternity leave have the right to be paid at the same rate as employees on sick leave. (A ruling that occupational sick pay and maternity pay be equalised would be of greatest significance in the case of employers with generous sick pay schemes.) The court will also be asked to consider whether the denial of pay during maternity leave is of itself sex discrimination. If it is, the next questions which present themselves will be "for what period of leave is a woman entitled to be paid?" and "who pays — the Government or the employer?"

The speed and radical nature of these changes have left employers reeling. Not everybody has welcomed the new laws. Many people think they go too far. Matters have not been helped by the inordinate complexity of the new scheme of maternity rights. In the short term, the new laws may lead to a reluctance to hire women of child-bearing age. However, I believe that in 20 years' time, fully paid maternity leave will be completely accepted. Everyone will wonder what the fuss was about.

● The author, an employment law partner in the City law firm Fox Williams, specialises in advising employers on discrimination.



JANE MANN

The present clearing system is half-hearted

Another fine Mess

BARRISTERS are up in arms over last week's report that John Nutting, Treasury counsel, would not allow solicitor-advocate John Mackenzie into the robing room of the Old Bailey. Mr Nutting says that the impression given in the piece was the opposite of the truth. The problem, he and others have pointed out, was not in the robing room but with the Bar Mess rules, drafted when only barristers appeared at the Old Bailey.

Mr Nutting, who is a keen critic of anything which fosters hostility between the profession's two branches, wanted to invite Mr Mackenzie to lunch, but found the Mess rules did not allow it. "I expressed my regret to Mr Mackenzie," he says, "and told him I proposed that as chairman of the Mess I intend to take steps to alter the rules."

Mr Mackenzie, however, says that so far as he is concerned, the Bar Mess and the robing room are one and the same place. It makes no sense, he says, that he can change but not have a cup of coffee or lunch. "The whole sensation is that the Bar owns



John Nutting: "regret"

these places, like a private club. It is most disconcerting."

Learner lawyers

BUDDING journalists are being given a chance to test their skills as part of the Bar Mock Trial competition, organised by The Citizenship Foundation. On November 19 and 20, Crown Courts nationwide are being taken over by pupils from 128 schools. The

pupils will play the part of the parties, barristers, jurors and court staff. The journalists will have to meet tight deadlines, and will be judged by editors from local papers.

Favourite reads

CHARITY law guru Andrew Phillips, of solicitors Bates Wells and Braithwaite, says of the Charities Act: "Before the Act, most charities would not see a lawyer from year to year, which I heartily support." In *Charity Magazine*, he describes professionalism as "the greatest reef under the high seas facing the sector".

Meanwhile, the proposed statute for a European Association, which would create a Europe-wide legal structure for charities and voluntary organisations, seems likely to be shelved indefinitely. There is still support at the European Commission for a statute, which would supposedly facilitate cross-border work by non-profit-making organisations. But the Council of Ministers has questioned whether it is really necessary.

Hand it over

WHEN have you made it as a lawyer? Perhaps when a client pays you \$1.4 million to use your name in a negotiation. Such is the reputation of John O'Quinn, from Houston, that the city paid him to act as a threat to make a company pay a \$14 million tax bill.

City Attorney Benjamin Hall told the *National Law Journal*: "He was there on the first day and the payday. I am convinced the payment came because of John's presence on the case." In his last 12 cases, Mr O'Quinn has won over \$1.4 billion for his clients.

Second D-Day

THE D-Day celebrations are over, but a second European battle has begun — for the hearts and minds of Europe's in-house lawyers. The American Corporate Counsel Association, which has 10,000 members, has opened a European Chapter.

Says president Michel Cloes, in Brussels: "This is not a movement from the US. It comes from the troops on the ground. There are specific issues affecting US companies and their lawyers based in Europe that the European in-house lawyer associations do not touch on."

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James Zirin on why judges in America are allowing court cases to be televised

Millions of viewers are poised to watch the televised screening of the O.J. Simpson case in Los Angeles after the ruling by Judge Lance Ito last week that a single camera can remain in his courtroom during the trial. After a diatribe from the bench about all the evils of television, such as preening lawyers, witnesses dumbstruck with nervousness, and sensationalised sound bites, Judge Ito said that mistaken reporting of the case had happened outside the courtroom, not inside, and that cameras would serve to correct the record, as well as to educate the public.

The case is the latest to be subjected to the full glare of the media spotlight. Even where cameras are excluded, as in the recent Woody Allen custody battle, courtroom artists sketch the players in the press or on television.

But increasingly television is involved in coverage of trials in the United States. In 1991, live coverage of the Kennedy trial of William Kennedy Smith, who was acquitted of date rape, was beamed by satellite throughout the world. Although the alleged rape victim later waived confidentiality and aired her accusation publicly, when she testified a black dot shielded her face from the television cameras.

At the trial she told her story confidently and without apparent inhibition. The acceptance of cameras is relatively recent. In 1935, in New Jersey, Bruno Hauptmann was tried for the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby, and convicted and executed. The trial took place under the glare of bright lights, noisy film cameras and large items of movie equipment, all mostly out-moded in today's electronic age.

While the conviction and procedures in the Hauptmann trial have been affirmed by the appellate courts, Bar groups and judges subsequently adopted rules banning cameras in courts as creating "mischievous potentialities" for intruding on the "detached atmosphere which should always surround the judicial process".

In 1965, in *Estes v Texas*, the Supreme Court reversed the conviction of a much-



On camera and not acting: O. J. Simpson leaves a Los Angeles police station

On trial, on camera, on TV

publicised financier for swindling, holding that the televising of a criminal trial was "inherently a denial of due process" to the accused.

Justice Harlan stated that the chief reason for barring cameras from the courts was that "courtroom television introduces into the conduct of a criminal trial the element of professional showmanship".

"In the context of a trial of intense public interest, there is certainly a strong possibility that the timid or reluctant witness, for whom a court appearance even at its traditional best is a harrowing affair, will become more timid or reluctant when he finds he will be appearing before a 'hidden audience' of unknown but large dimensions."

"And who can say that the juror who is gratified by having been chosen for a front-line case, an ambitious prosecutor, a publicity-minded defence counsel and even a

conscious judge, will not stray, albeit unconsciously, from doing what 'comes naturally' into pluming themselves for a TV performance?"

In the 1980s the pendulum began to swing the other way. America is now well on its way to universal acceptance of television cameras in courtrooms. At present, 34 states permit courtroom coverage on a permanent basis and nine more, including New York, do so on an experimental basis.

None of Justice Harlan's objections — intrusiveness, the possibility that witnesses will be reluctant to testify; concern that lawyers (or even judges) may play to the electronic audience; the influence on jurors; and the sensationalisation of cases involving scandalous facts or celebrated participants — has proved over time to be terribly persuasive.

While the viewing public in the Kennedy Smith case may have been more largely titillated than educated, no indication emerged from the trial that the cameras had intruded upon the judicial process.

Since 1791 the Sixth Amendment has guaranteed the accused in criminal cases the right to a "speedy and public trial". The constitutional objective was a fair trial, and the "public trial" was intended as an assurance for attaining it. The guarantee of a "public trial" expressed the value that the judges, lawyers, witnesses and jurors would perform their roles more responsibly in a public rather than a star-chamber like atmosphere.

Pressure to televise judicial proceedings has not all come from Court TV, the private company standing most to gain economically from universal cameras in the courts. Eminent lawyers and judges have argued that cam-

era coverage promotes public education about the judicial system in action, just as the public is educated about the legislative system by seeing their lawmakers in action.

The argument about intrusiveness, which remained so persuasive with the court at the time of the *Estes* case, has been largely vitiated by technological advance. Cameras are now much smaller, fewer technicians are required, and cases can be filmed in ordinary light without the need for spotlights.

Recent studies in New York have shown that the impact of audio-visual equipment and operators on proceedings was negligible. The vast majority of judges participating in the experiment reported that witness testimony was not affected by the cameras, and virtually all responded that the cameras had no impact on the fairness of trials.

A 1991 study showed that 95 per cent of jurors felt no pressure either to convict or acquit by reason of the cameras, and most believed that there was no impact on a fair trial.

As for the concern that lawyers or witnesses will play to the camera, most judges believe that they can exercise sufficient control over their courtroom to prevent this from happening. Restrictions can be readily adopted regulating or eliminating coverage in divorce trials, trade secrets, merger and acquisition cases or other proceedings involving facts of a confidential nature.

With the O. J. Simpson case, there has been perhaps more media coverage of this apparently straightforward murder case than any within memory. But, in Judge Ito's view, the persuasiveness of the commentators will be tempered by the live coverage of the case, so that the public can weigh and sift what is being fed to them on the nightly news.

Cameras in the courtroom may be the most accurate and comprehensive means of conveying the contents of a trial to the public, particularly trials such as the Simpson case, where public faith in the integrity of the process is so essential.

James D. Zirin, a trial lawyer, is a partner in Brown & Wood, a New York law firm.

£15 million payoff for a princess?

Whether Lord Mishcon, Paul Butler or another ends up advising the Princess of Wales on any divorce settlement, the lawyer who has won instant fame from the latest Andrew Morton book is Geoffrey Waters, who writes the specially commissioned appendix to *Diana — Her New Life*.

The Princess's lawyers, he says in the book, are certain to press for the "largest capital payment possible" in any settlement. He would expect the Princess's advisers to be prepared to consider a "once-and-for-all" settlement in the region of £15 million. This would be on the basis of achieving a clean break, so that the Prince of Wales did not have to make continuous maintenance payments, and on the Princess's ability to establish a need for an annual net income of £500,000.

But Mr Waters, head of the matrimonial department of the Covent Garden law firm Wedlake Bell (Michael O'Mara Books, the Morton book's publishers, are its clients), says the Prince is unlikely to have capital to achieve a "clean break" settlement from his wife. "Although the Duchy of Cornwall's assets in excess of £90 million, the Prince does not have any right to this capital and the court would therefore not be able to force the Prince to pay the Princess any of that money."

The Queen would probably have to help out with any settlement, as she did with her sister, Princess Margaret, and also with the Princess Royal's divorce, Mr Waters says. The details of the financial arrangements are expected to be the biggest source of conflict between the Prince and Princess: when they come to divorce.

Lawyers acting for the Princess of Wales in any divorce would ask for a king's ransom, says Frances Gibb

The Princess's maintenance claim would be based on her husband's income which, after tax, is at least £3 million a year. A wife's claim is normally one third of the husband's net income if she has no income of her own. The Prince has no Civil List allowance and his lawyers would want to reduce the net

difficult to see how an annual figure greater than £500,000 could be justified," he says.

A crucial factor in considering the Princess's reasonable needs are to what extent she continued to play

A divorce could occur at any day after December 9, provided that both parties consent, by which time the couple would have been apart for two years.

"Like any other couple, either of them may start the divorce," Mr Waters says. "The Princess could file a petition based on the factor of the alleged adultery of the Prince, but under the rules it is no longer necessary for her to name the co-respondent."

There would be no financial advantage for the Princess to sue for divorce on grounds of adultery, but it would remain a "bargaining lever", Mr Waters says, because the Prince would want the divorce to take place with the "minimum amount of publicity as any allegations of adultery would obviously fuel the press", a role in public life. "If there is to be a divorce, the Prince would almost certainly prefer it to be based on two years' separation with consent," Mr Waters says.

"One of them would have to enter a petition with a fee of £40 in the principal divorce registry or any other divorce county court in the country, which they might do to try to avoid publicity."

As with any other divorce petition, it would have to contain one of five facts to show irretrievable breakdown of the marriage: adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion (in excess of two years), living apart for two years, with consent or living apart for five years, where consent is not necessary.



Princess of Wales: £500,000 income

income by the cost of public duties, estimated at a minimum of £1 million. That leaves a notional net income for the Prince of £2 million.

"She would therefore have a claim for maintenance of about £660,000," Mr Waters says. But lawyers would argue this should be reduced on the grounds of what her reasonable needs are. "It is

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Secure accommodation orders

In re M (a Minor) (Secure accommodation order)

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss,
Lord Justice Hoffmann and Sir
Tassie Waddams

[Judgment November 10]
On an application under section 25
of the Children Act 1989 by a local
authority to keep a child in secure
accommodation, the welfare of the
child was a relevant but not the
paramount consideration and the
criteria in section 1 of the Act were
not applicable.

The Court of Appeal as held
when dismissing the appeal of a
guardian *ad litem* from the dis-
missal by Mr Justice Ward on July
1 of the guardian's appeal from the
order of the Birmingham Justices
on June 2 authorising the local
authority to keep a child, M, in
secure accommodation for three
months.

Mr David Hershman for the
guardian *ad litem*; Mr Stephen
Cobb for the local authority.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-
SLOSS said that the court had
been told that the confusion about
the correct approach to a section 25
application was causing diffi-
culties for guardians appointed in
those applications and some con-
fusion by magistrates applying the
criteria in section 25.

The issue had been considered

by at least seven judges of the
family Division and there was a
considerable divergence of
opinion.

The general duty of a local
authority to safeguard and pro-
mote the child's welfare was not
the same as that imposed upon the
court in section 1 of the Act placing
welfare as the paramount considera-
tion.

Among those duties and powers
was the right of a local authority
to hold a child in secure accommo-
dation for up to 72 hours without a
court order. To be enabled to do so
the local authority had to sur-
mount the hurdle of the require-
ments of section 25(1).

In coming to the decision to
revoke the liberty of a child the
local authority would also have to
have regard to their duty to
safeguard and promote the welfare
of a child who was looked after by
them.

The welfare principle was
not to be considered by the
local authority in coming to so
serious and draconian a decision
as the restriction upon the liberty
of the child.

They had the power, however, in
section 25(1)(b) to place him in
secure accommodation if he was
likely to injure others rather than
himself. That power might be
inconsistent with the concept of the
child's welfare being paramount.

The jurisdiction of the court was
to be found in the same section and
the court applied the same criteria.
To require the court to have regard
to other criteria than those im-
posed upon the local authority
within the same section would be
inconsistent with the purpose of
section 25 which gave the court the
power to authorise the local au-
thority to keep the child in secure
accommodation.

Clearly the welfare of the child
was of great importance and had
to take its place in the relevant
criteria. But if at the end of the day
the relevant criteria were satisfied
there was a mandatory require-
ment that the court should make
an order authorising the child to be
kept in secure accommodation.

As one looked at the wording of
section 1 its provisions were either
irrelevant to or inconsistent with
section 25. The paramountcy prin-
ciple was inconsistent with the
duties of the local authority and
with section 25(1)(b). Section 1 was
not designed to apply to Part III of
the Children Act.

A guardian *ad litem* appointed
in a secure accommodation case
had to adapt his general duties to
the specific requirements of the
application before the court.

In so far as he was given the
opportunity by the court he had to
endeavour to investigate, report

and recommend what he believed
was in the best interests of the
child.

LORD JUSTICE HOFFMANN,
concurring, said that the function
of the court under section 25 was to
control the exercise of power by the
local authority rather than to
exercise an independent jurisdic-
tion in the best interests of the
child.

Section 25(3) said that the court's
duty was to determine whether
"any relevant criteria" were
satisfied. In his Lordship's judg-
ment they did not include the
principles set out in section 1.

The duty of the court was to put
itself in the position of a reasonable
local authority and to ask whether
the conditions in section 25(1) were
satisfied and whether it would be
in accordance with the local
authority's duty to safeguard and
promote the welfare of the child,
although subject to the important
qualification in section 25(1)(b) for
the child to be kept in secure accom-
modation and, if so, for how long.

The function of the guardian *ad
litem* in an application under
section 25 was to assist the court in
deciding those questions.

Sir Tassie Waddams agreed.
Solicitors: Young & Lee,
Birmingham; Mr Robert Barker,
Birmingham.

Lacuna in new bail Act procedure

*Regina v Governor of
Pentonville Prison, Ex parte
Bone*

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr
Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment November 8]

A crown court judge, hearing an
appeal by the prosecution against a
decision by justices to remand on
bail a person who had not yet been
committed for crown court trial,
should, if he exercised his power to
remand in custody, be invited by
the prosecution to stipulate a date
which complied with the time limit
imposed on justices by section 128
and 129 of the Magistrates' Courts
Act 1980.

The Queen's Bench Divisional
Court stated when issuing a writ
of habeas corpus and releasing
Alan Bone from custody, Mr Bone
had been charged on October 14,
1994. On October 20 he was
granted conditional bail by Strat-
ford Justices until December 15.

The prosecutor immediately
served notice under section 169 of
the Bail (Amendment) Act 1993 for
rehearing of the bail application
before a crown court judge and the
justices remanded him in custody
pending determination of the ap-
peal. On October 21, Judge
Smedley, QC, at the Central Crimi-
nal Court exercised his power
under section 169 of the 1993 Act

and remanded Mr Bone in custody
to Pentonville Prison for an un-
specified period.

Mr Richard Kovalevsky for Mr
Bone; Mr John Bevan for the
prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said
that crown court judge had not
specified, nor would he normally
be expected to specify the period
for which he was remanding in
custody because in the ordinary
way when there was a bail ap-
plication to the crown court, the
judge it was because the defendant
had been committed for trial to the
crown court.

The 1993 Act, however, in-
troduced a different and novel
procedure on which on the ma-
terial facts it was silent leading
to the problems which arose in the
present case. The difficulties arose
because Mr Bone had not been
committed for trial to the crown
court and was still within the
jurisdiction of justices whose powers
of remand were generally
limited to eight days by sections
128 and 129 of the 1980 Act.

Mr Kovalevsky submitted that
granted the crown court judge was
entitled both as a matter of
jurisdiction under section 169 of
the 1993 Act and of discretion to
make the order that he did, that
period of custody became unlawful
once eight days had elapsed since

Mr Bone last appeared before the
justices: see *per Lord Donaldson,
Master of the Rolls, in R v
Secretary of State for the Home
Department, Ex parte Cheblak*
(1991) 1 WLR 890, 894D). So seven
days after the crown court judge's
order, the detention of Mr Bone
ceased to be lawful.

Mr Bevan accepted that the
breach of the 1993 Act created
difficulties but the order was made
perfectly lawfully and was un-
challengeable. Sections 128 and 129
of the 1980 Act did not apply to a
crown court judge and it would be
surprising if justices had some
power on appeal against a decision
of the crown court judge whereby a
limitation could be imposed by
them on his order.

His Lordship accepted that the
crown court judge was not subject
to sections 128 and 129 of the 1980
Act. However, the detention of Mr
Bone and its unlawfulness or
otherwise had to be gauged by
reference to the provisions of the
1980 Act because he was subject to
the jurisdiction of the justices.

Mr Bone had further submit-
ted that were the Divisional Court
minded to grant the writ that
would lead to difficulties as to the
status of Mr Bone. Did he become
on bail on condition of unlawful
conditions or not on bail at all?
Mr Kovalevsky contended that

the hearing before the crown court
was a rehearing and the order
made meant that the justices order
imposing bail conditions necessary
fell away. Mr Bone could not be
said to be on conditional bail or on
bail at all.

In his Lordship's judgment that
submission was well founded. The
consequences for Mr Bone and his
relationship with the public might
be extremely unfortunate. But if
that were the consequence of the
unlawful detention so be it. The
application would be allowed.

His Lordship gave guidance on
procedure. It was not satisfactory
that justices who remanded on bail
and specified a date should be
invited to specify another date not
more than eight days hence if the
crown court were to allow an
appeal against them under the
1993 Act.

The most convenient and sen-
sible course would be for the crown
court in future to be invited by the
prosecution to stipulate a date that
complied with the 1980 Act, not
because the crown court judge was
subject to the jurisdiction of that
Act, but because of the lacuna in
the 1993 Act that had led to the
present difficulties.

Mr Justice Scott Baker agreed.
Solicitors: Duthie Hart &
Duthie, Paisley; CPS, Stratford.

Regulations cannot be challenged

*Regina v Secretary of State
for Social Security, Ex parte
Nessa*

Before Mr Justice Auld
[Judgment November 10]

The making of regulations by a
minister of the Crown was a
governmental act which was not
subject to challenge on the ground
of discrimination under the Race
Relations Act 1976.

Mr Justice Auld so held in a
reserved judgment in the Queen's
Bench Division refusing an
application by Mrs Syeda M.
Nessa for judicial review of an
adjudication officer's refusal of a
further payment under regulation
7(1)(c) of the Social Fund Maternity
and Funeral Expenses (General)
Regulations (SI 1987 No 451) in
respect of costs incurred in the
United Kingdom in returning her
husband's body to Bangladesh, his
country of origin, for burial.

Section 20 of the 1976 Act
provides: "(1) It is unlawful for any
person concerned with the pro-
vision... of... facilities or services
to the public... to discriminate
against a person who seeks to
obtain or use those... facilities or
services...".

"(2) The following are examples
of the facilities and services men-
tioned in subsection (1) — (a) facili-
ties... for grants... (b) facili-
ties... for loans... (c) facili-
ties... for any loan or other
public authority."

Section 75 provides: "(1) The Act
applies — (a) to an act done by or
for purposes of a minister of the
Crown... as it applies to an act
done by a private person."

Mr Richard Drabble for the
applicant; Mr David Pannick, QC,
for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE AULD said that
one of the prescribed circum-
stances for the payment of funeral
expenses from the social fund
under regulation 7(1)(c) of the 1987
Regulations was that the funeral
took place in the United Kingdom.

Mr Drabble had maintained
that the regulation, in its pro-
hibition of payment of any funeral
expenses incurred in this country
where the ultimate disposal of the
body took place abroad, discrimi-
nated against residents in this
country of overseas origin. There-
fore, it was unlawful because it
was contrary to section 20 of the
1976 Act.

Mr Drabble had attacked the
legality of the regulation rather
than the adjudication officer's act
of refusal in compliance with it.
Section 41 of the Act provided that
nothing in the relevant parts of the
Act should render unlawful any
act of discrimination done in
pursuance of, *inter alia*, any
statutory instrument.

The 1976 Act applied to acts done
by ministers of the Crown, civil
servants and statutory bodies,
subject to a person who seeks to
obtain or use those... facilities or
services... by a private person.

Mr Drabble had argued that the
word "grant" in section 20(2)(a) and
the reference in section 20(2)(b) to
the services of a public authority
indicated that governmental activity
was subject to control under the
1976 Act.

He observed that the making of a
discriminatory regulation was
not protected by section 41 of the
1976 Act. Accordingly, the sec-
retary of state, in his role of
making a regulation with discrimi-
natory effect, and for the applica-

tion of which he was responsible,
was "doing an act" as a minister
of the Crown within the meaning
of that expression in section 75(1)
which was unlawful.

Mr Pannick had challenged that
approach by reference to section
75(1) and *R v Entry Clearance
Officer, Bombay, Ex parte Amin*
(1983) 2 AC 818 where the House
of Lords had held that analogous
provisions in the Sex Discrimina-
tion Act 1975 did not apply to acts
done by a minister or officer of the
Crown which were different in
kind from acts that might be done
by a private person.

The act in question in *Ex parte
Amin* was the grant of special
vouchers to persons seeking entry
into the UK. It was held that that
was not the provision of a facility
or service, but the grant of per-
mission to use facilities, a gov-
ernmental act of control and not
the kind of act that a private person
could do, and was thus outside the
scope of the 1975 Act.

Mr Pannick had submitted that
the secretary of state's statutory
power to make regulations was not
the provision of facilities or ser-
vices under section 20(1) of the
1976 Act because it was a law making
function, done in the course of
formulating or implementing gov-
ernment policy and, therefore,
quite different in kind from the acts
of a private person.

Mr Drabble had sought to
counter Mr Pannick's reliance
upon *Ex parte Amin* by advancing
the distinction that the grant of an
entry voucher was not the grant of
a facility under the relevant pro-
vision, whereas the grant of a
further payment was the grant of a
facility under section 20(1) having

regard to the example in section
20(2)(c) "facilities... for grants".
In his Lordship's judgment, that
distinction was immaterial. The
ratio in *Ex parte Amin* stemmed
from the equivalent provision in
the 1975 Act to section 75 of the 1976
Act. It was that acts of a gov-
ernmental nature, acts of a gov-
ernment, were not the kind of acts
that might be done by a private
person, were not the kind of acts
that might be done by a private
person.

Similarly, under the 1976 Act,
whether or not an act might be
done by a minister or officer of the
Crown, it was not the kind of act
that might be done by a private
person. It was only in section 20(2)
that it was stated that the govern-
ment was not bound by the provisions
of section 75, as construed by the
House of Lords in *Ex parte Amin*,
it was an act of a kind that might
be done by a private person.

That was of a piece with the
exclusion from control by the Act of
any act of discrimination done in
pursuance of, *inter alia*, a statu-
tory instrument. As Mr Pannick
had observed, it would be un-
lawful while the act done in pursuance
of it was lawful. The appropriate
medium of challenge was in Par-
liament not in the courts.

Accordingly, the subject matter
of the applicant's complaint, the
making of regulation 7(1)(c), was
not within the scope of section 20 of
the 1976 Act, and the fact that the
secretary of state was also respon-
sible for the making of the regu-
lations under the regulations did
not bring it within that scope.

Solicitors: Sinclair Taylor &
Martin, North Kensington; Soli-
citor, Department of Social Secu-

School expulsion
was unfair*Regina v Newham London
Borough Council and
Another, Ex parte X*

Where a child had been expelled
from school with no opportunity to
make representations, that was an
unfair decision which could be
judicially reviewed.

Mr Justice Brooke so held in the
Queen's Bench Division on Oc-
tober 28, when granting X, a school-
boy in the London Borough of
Newham, an application for judi-
cial review of the decision of his
headteacher to expel him from his
school as a result of an incident
which had occurred outside the
school's premises when X had
"debagged" another boy appar-
ently in retaliation to an alleged
insult.

HIS LORDSHIP said that X's
parents had been given no prop-
erly constituted right to appeal or

to make representations to the
school's governors against the
headteacher's decision, under sec-
tion 23A(6) of the Education (No
2) Act 1982: that the matter in
question went directly to the fair-
ness of the decision to expel, and
since in the court's judgment that
was essentially a question of law, it
was appropriate for the court to
grant leave to apply for judicial
review.

His Lordship added that since
the applicant had a strong prima
facie case that there had been a
breach of the rules of fairness, and
that since each day was of critical
importance in the education of a
child, the applicant was studying
for his GCSE exams at the time of
the incident, the court would grant
injunction relief to the applicant,
ordering that he be allowed to
return to his school.

Doctor cooperative
payments lawful*Regina v Secretary of State
for Health, Ex parte Federa-
tion of Medical Services Ltd*

Family health services authori-
ties were entitled to reimburse
expenses incurred by general
practitioner cooperatives for practice
staff, premises and computers
even though such payments were
not authorised when made to
companies limited by guarantee.

The Queen's Bench Divisional
Court (Lord Justice Simon, Brown
and Mr Justice Buckley) held on
October 27 in dismissing an
application for judicial review
brought by the Federation of
Medical Services Ltd against the
statement to Circular FHS1/94/11
dated February 23, 1994 by the
Secretary of State for Health that
family health services authorities
could reimburse expenses incurred
by general practitioner members

of cooperatives for practice staff,
premises and computers.
One of the federation's aims was
to promote its constituent mem-
bers in the provision of family
doctor deputising services at
nights and weekends.

In recent years, some doctors
had started to provide similar
services through doctors' co-
operatives which were set up and
run by doctors and usually op-
erated in the form of companies
limited by guarantee.

The application for judicial re-
view concerned payments being
made in respect of expenses in-
curred by family doctor co-
operatives which the federation
contended that the Secretary of
State for Health, the family health
services authorities and adversely affected
the federation's business.

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Oliver Holt reflects on a Formula One year dominated by the death of Ayrton Senna

Season when May Day brought summer to an end

The esoteric things are already beginning to fade from the mind. Michael Schumacher may still have had dreams about black flags and skidblocks but, for the majority, the catalogue of squabbles and controversies that dominated the season are merging into one now that it is over. This Formula One year will be remembered for one thing: the death of Ayrton Senna.

There are curves or straights named after him at nearly every track and at Suzuka the spectators have built a shrine to him. Schumacher dedicated his drivers' championship to him. Frank Williams and his team offered up the constructors' championship as well in honour of his driver. His image is everywhere.

Senna's death during the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on May 1 cast a strange spell over the sport. Nobody, for instance, seemed prepared to accept the brilliance of Schumacher for what it was. He was perfect in the first half of the season so people said he must be cheating.

It would have been a great year had Senna not died at Tamborello. A battle royal between him and the young German was in its nascent

stages when he was killed. Without him, without the Damon Hill that emerged in the latter part of the season, new adversaries were invented for Schumacher in the form of disqualification and suspension.

If Senna had lived and the race for the championship had been neck and neck, with all the attendant publicity and tension that would have brought, the accusations against Benetton about the presence of a launch control system in their computer software might never have surfaced. Nobody likes a runaway leader.

Senna's death plunged Formula One into crisis not just because it created a whole new set of fears about safety but because it deprived the sport of the last of the great champions. Schumacher and Hill, fine understudies, were cast in the leading roles too soon, without really knowing their lines.

"We have several problems," Gerhard Berger, the Ferrari driver and Senna's close friend, said. "The old generation disappeared too quickly, not like in the past when it was step by step. This time, Mansell went to America, Prost

retired, Piquet stopped and Ayrton died. They were all great characters. In one and a half years, all the strong characters were gone.

"Then the young guys who are replacing them made the mistake of trying to imitate Senna in



Team-mates at McLaren in 1992, Berger, left, considered retiring after the death of Senna

everything because he was the most successful driver. The only thing Ayrton did not show was enjoyment of his life. He did not look like a happy person and gave the impression every day of being a computer. So the young genera-

tion now thinks you have to be about like this if you want to be like Senna and that is wrong. "Senna was successful because of so many things and you're not going to win more if you walk around all day with a long face.

Many of the team chiefs think that is the way to success and the guys are afraid that if they have too much fun no-one will take them seriously.

"But people want to see racing drivers, not just racing. They want to see their life, they want them to be natural. Alesi is quite good like this, Schumacher is coming along and Hill is trying. They will build it up again in a couple of years."

Of all the faces that crowd the memory from this season that seemed to go on forever, never letting up in intensity or incident, the pit-lane fire at Hockenheim following hard on the heels of Schumacher's refusal to obey the black flag at Silverstone, Berger's looms largest. One of the most intelligent and astute drivers on the circuit, certainly the one most imbued with *joie de vivre*, he came close to retiring in the aftermath of the deaths of his compatriot, Roland Ratzenberger, and Senna.

Instead, he threw himself into the safety campaign, heading the reformed Grand Prix Drivers' Association, and then two months later ended Ferrari's three-year losing streak by winning the

German Grand Prix at Hockenheim. His memories of the season, though, like everyone else's, are dominated by Senna, his team-mate at McLaren for three years.

"I have been with many team-mates — Mansell, Alesi, Alboreto — and with them I could always compete," Berger says. "With Senna it was a completely different story. He was another step. I do not know anyone in motor racing who kept the same level as him."

"The guys who have never driven with him think they can do the same but I thought that too when I went to McLaren. I wouldn't have signed if I had known how quick, how good, that guy was."

"Alesi, for instance, may be as quick as Senna, but this was not what Senna was about. His talent was 100 per cent, his brain was 100 per cent, his forward-looking was 100 per cent, and his technical understanding was 100 per cent. In everything he was there. The guy had some special sensors that none of the others had. I don't know about Jim Clark and the older guys but, in my ten years, Senna was the best."

Taylor's decline clouds future

By PHIL YATES

DENNIS Taylor, who has slipped to 33rd in the provisional world rankings, the lowest standing of his career, after three barren seasons, said yesterday he is considering retirement from competitive snooker should his status decline much further.

Taylor, the 1985 world champion, described himself as being at "the crossroads" after a hard-fought but unconvincing 9-7 victory over Wayne Jones in the first round of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship at Preston Guild Hall.

Although Taylor remains one of the game's most easily recognisable figures, he is encountering a number of technical problems, with more and more body movement evident as he delivers the cue.

A summariser with the BBC snooker commentary team and much sought after for exhibitions, he is undecided about which path to take. "I'm in a catch-22 situation because I'm thinking about television and promotional work. Alongside that I would still like to stay in the top flight for as long as I can," he said.

If Taylor is to beat Peter

Ebdon, his next opponent, and reach the last 16 he will require a vastly-improved performance to the one he produced when losing 5-4 to Ebdon at the corresponding stage of the Dubai Classic five weeks ago.

Ebdon, whose main intent is to prove that his subsequent run to the final in Dubai was not an isolated success, became the first player to compile two century breaks in a match at the event during his 9-3 victory over Karl Payne, of Birmingham. Leading 6-2 overnight, Ebdon, who had compiled a 115 break in the opening session, added further runs of 53, 55 and 101 yesterday. Ebdon won nine of the last ten frames.

Although he must have expected a tougher test from Joe Perry, the surprise conqueror of Cliff Thorburn in the final qualifying round, Joe Swail comfortably progressed with a 9-4 win.

RESULTS: First round: P Ebdon (Eng) bt K Payne (Eng) 9-3; D O'Hare (NI) bt G Hendrick (Scott) 5-0; O Taylor (N Ire) bt W Jones (Wales) 9-7; J Swail (N Ire) bt J Perry (Eng) 9-4. Latest positions: J Ferguson (Eng) leads C Swail (Scott) 5-3; K Doherty (Ire) bt R Lawler (Eng) 5-3; N Terry (Eng) bt O Wilson (Eng) 5-3; W Thorne (Eng) leads C Macdonald (Scott) 5-3.

Bledsoe's best steals spotlight from San Francisco

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE "game of the year" in the National Football League fizzled a bit on Sunday, thanks primarily to San Francisco's excellent defensive effort against Dallas, but Drew Bledsoe, of the New England Patriots, sizzled in a 26-20 overtime win against the Minnesota Vikings.

San Francisco beat Dallas 21-14 after capitalising on three interceptions thrown by Troy Aikman. The 49ers did not turn over the ball and the result left the clubs with records of eight wins and two defeats. Dallas have won the past two Super Bowls after beating San Francisco in the National Conference final.

Bledsoe, the second-year New England quarterback, not only put on the greatest passing performance in club history, he set league records for passing attempts (70) and completions (45). He threw a 14-yard scoring pass to an unsuspecting Kevin Turner four minutes into overtime to provide the victory.

"I wasn't expecting the ball," Turner said. "The situation we were in, I thought we were going to set up a field goal. We caught them at the right time and just where we wanted them. They weren't expecting it at all."

Bledsoe's passing helped the Patriots to overcome a 20-0 deficit in the first half. He threw for 426 yards, eclipsing his own single-game record of 421, set against Miami in the season opener.

"It is more fun as a quarterback if you can drop back and throw a little bit, but I don't know if you want to throw it 70 times," he said. "That's a lot of heaves. It worked well for us today."

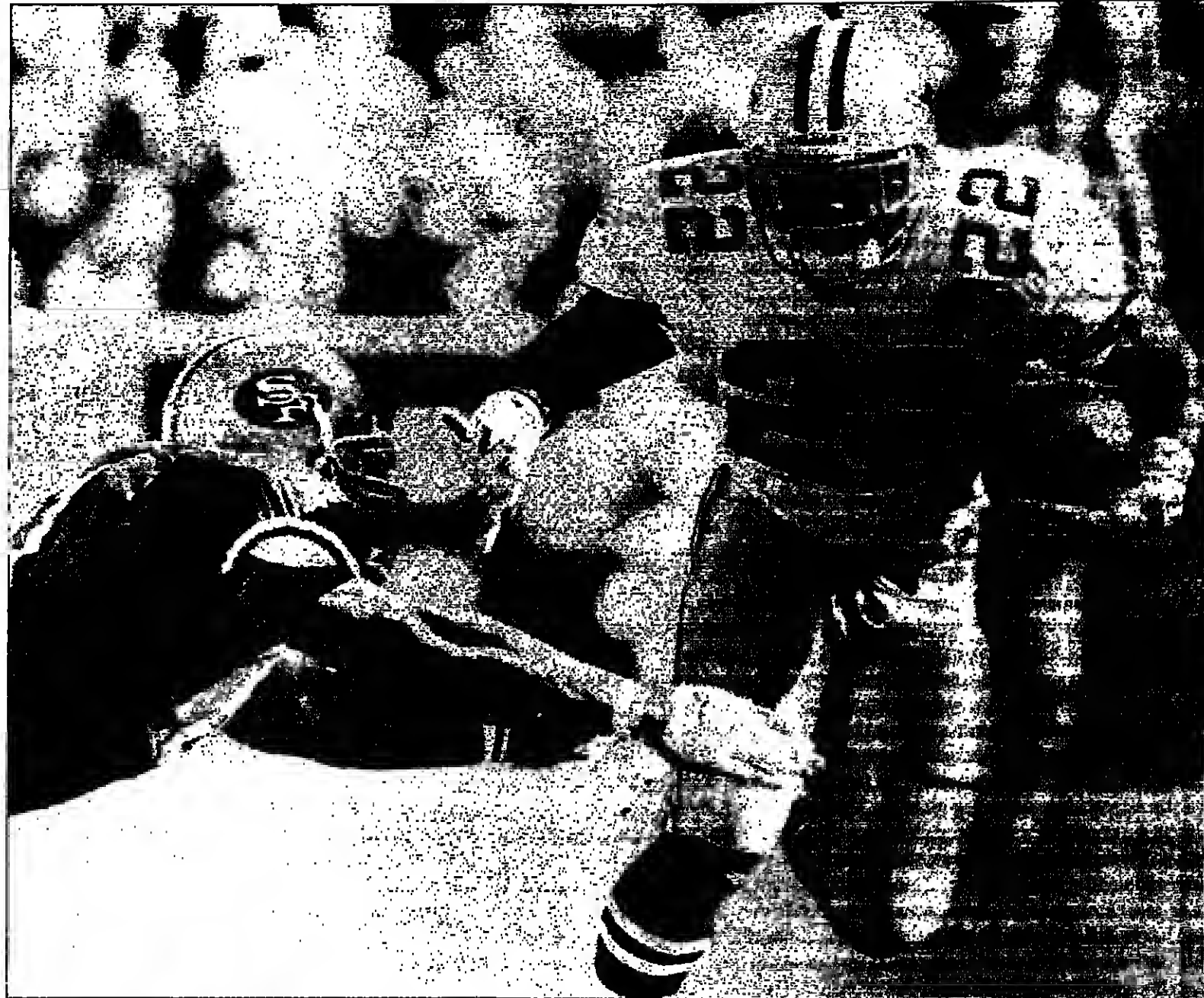
Richard Todd, formerly of the New York Jets, held the previous record for completions with 42, set against San Francisco in 1980. George Blanda, formerly of the Houston Oilers, held the record for attempts with 68, set against Buffalo in 1964.

Bledsoe's decisive pass to Turner capped the opening series of overtime, a nine-play, 66-yard march, during which Bledsoe completed six of six passes for 56 yards. He was 37 for 53 for 354 yards and three touchdowns in the second half and overtime alone. His 31-yard scoring pass to Ray Crittenden on the first drive of the third quarter brought the Patriots to within 20-10.

New England climbed to within 20-17 on Bledsoe's five-yard scoring pass to Leroy Thompson, who finished with 11 catches for 74 yards. Michael Timpon had ten receptions for 113 yards and Ben Coates caught ten passes for 74 yards.

New England levelled the scores on Matt Bahr's 23-yard field goal with 14 seconds left in regulation time. Bledsoe directed the Patriots 56 yards in 12 plays to the tying score and hit Vincent Brisby for a 25-yard gain on four down and ten to the Minnesota 36-yard line.

Warren Moon, of the Vikings, completed 26 of 42 passes for 349 yards and combined with Bledsoe to



Smith, the Dallas running back, attempts to escape the clutches of Norton, the San Francisco linebacker, during the Cowboys' defeat

break league records for completions (71). Neither quarterback threw an interception and Moon was sacked once. The Vikings, who had their four-game winning sequence stopped, dominated the first half, outgaining the Patriots 286 yards to 89. Moon made 14 of 23 passes for 234 yards in the first half, including a 65-yard touchdown pass to Quincy Enunwa.

Dennis Green, the Minnesota coach, said: "I think the big thing that hurt us was that we had some dropped balls, particularly some crucial ones in the fourth quarter."

In Detroit, Barry Sanders ran for 237 yards, the best

performance in the league this season, to lead the Detroit Lions to a 14-9 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Sanders had 200 yards on 16 carries in the second half, including 117 in the third quarter to set up two touchdowns. Walter Payton, formerly of the Chicago Bears, ran for a record 275 yards against the Minnesota Vikings in 1977 to set the one-game yardage record.

Sanders' effort ranks as the sixth best in league history. Derrick Moore scored on a one-yard run in the second half to give the Lions a 7-3 lead. He caught a nine-yard pass from Dave Krieg for the other Detroit touchdown.

RESULTS: Week 11: Atlanta 10 NY Giants 9; New Orleans 30 Atlanta 17; Cleveland 20 Cincinnati 17; Cincinnati 20 Houston 31; New England 26 Minnesota 20 (OT); San Diego 14 Kansas City 13; San Francisco 21 Dallas 14; LA Raiders 20 LA Rams 17; Green Bay 17 NY Jets 10; Denver 17 Seattle 10; Detroit 14 Tampa Bay 9.

National Football Conference				
	W	L	PF	PA
Dallas	8	2	202	141
San Francisco	8	2	202	141
Atlanta	4	6	155	186
NY Giants	3	7	171	230
Washington	3	8	153	270
American Football Conference				
	W	L	PF	PA
San Diego	8	2	224	164
Green Bay	8	2	202	141
Chicago	6	4	172	152
Detroit	6	4	172	152
Tampa Bay	2	8	153	270
Central Division				
	W	L	PF	PA
Minnesota	7	3	224	164
San Francisco	8	2	202	141
LA Raiders	4	6	155	186
LA Rams	3	7	171	230
East Division				
	W	L	PF	PA
San Diego	8	2	224	164
Green Bay	8	2	202	141
Chicago	6	4	172	152
Detroit	6	4	172	152
Tampa Bay	2	8	153	270
West Division				
	W	L	PF	PA
San Diego	8	2	224	164
Green Bay	8	2	202	141
Chicago	6	4	172	152
Detroit	6	4	172	152
Tampa Bay	2	8	153	270

FIXTURES: Week 12: Sunday: Cleveland at Kansas City; Detroit at Chicago; Green Bay at Buffalo; Indianapolis at Cincinnati; Miami at Philadelphia; San Diego at New England; Washington at Dallas; Atlanta at Denver; Philadelphia at Arizona; Tampa Bay at Seattle; LA Rams at San Francisco. Monday: NY Giants at Houston.

Navratilova's finale begins in New York

THE final tournament of Martina Navratilova's astonishing career began last night at Madison Square Garden in New York. After dominating women's tennis since the Seventies, when she burst on to the world stage from the relative obscurity of Czechoslovakia, the Virginia Slims Championship will mark the end of an era in the game in which Navratilova, now 38, was the dominant player and personality.

In addition to her huge collection of grand slam singles and doubles titles, most notably at Wimbledon, Navratilova has won seven singles and 11 doubles tournaments at Madison Square Garden's carpet courts. On four other occasions, she reached singles finals there.

It is a record of success that will be honoured tonight after

her first-round singles match against Gabriela Sabatini, of Argentina, when a banner bearing her name will be raised to the ceiling of the arena, where it will join the retired numbers for favourite New York Knicks and New York Rangers basketball and ice hockey players.

Steffi Graf, of Germany, is the No 1 seed, but Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the world No 2 from Spain, who has been in impressive form recently, is the favourite to win the event.

Anke Huber, of Germany, beat Mary Pierce, of the United States, 6-0, 6-7, 7-5 to claim the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia title on Sunday night, despite a brave recovery from Pierce in the final set in which she pulled back from 0-4 to 5-5, saving three match points in the process.

Agassi answers cry for challenger

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

A CRY, uttered throughout the year, has been answered more swiftly than anyone could have predicted. The genuine rivalry needed to disturb the increasingly stagnant predictability at the top of men's tennis has developed in time to decorate the climax of the season.

The final of the ATP Tour world championship, which opens here today and concludes on Sunday, should feature Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. The Americans, of such contrasting natures and styles, are ranked respectively No 1 and No 2 and seeded first and second.

Sampras was so crushingly dominant in the first half of the year, during which he captured the Australian Open and retained the Wimbledon

title, that he established an unprecedented lead in the rankings.

During his prolonged demonstration of apparent omnipotence, Agassi was dropping out of consideration as a possible contender, recuperating from wrist surgery during a five-month lay-off. In March his spectacular recovery began. With the assistance of Brad Gilbert, a player who had contrastingly made the most of limited ability, he defeated Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg (two of the entrants here, coincidentally), on his way to the final at Key Biscayne. There he could have claimed the title by default.

Instead he agreed to delay the match for more than an hour to allow Sampras time to recover from a stomach complaint. Agassi, though defeated after his sporting gesture, collected sufficient conviction to launch a comeback which

has since gained even greater momentum.

He won the Canadian Open and the US Open before resting for five weeks. He returned to take the titles in Vienna and Paris where he overcame Sampras in straight sets. In his last 20 matches, he has succumbed only to Goran Ivanisevic in Stockholm.

Agassi, hampered by foot and leg injuries, responded to his own recent adversity and to the threat posed by his fellow countryman by retaining the title at Atrium on Sunday. Thus, they have both arrived here in prime condition for their prospective showdown in the Festhalle.

Agassi starts this evening against Alberto Berasategui, the outsider, and will then take on Sergi Bruguera, the French Open champion, and Michael Chang. "If I continue to play like I have," Agassi, the 1990 champion, pronounced

yesterday, "I fancy my chances of beating anyone."

Sampras opens tomorrow against Edberg, the winner in 1989, and the longest-active member of the world's elite. The other qualifiers in the powerful quartet are Becker and Ivanisevic, who meet this afternoon.

DRAW: First round: P Sampras, G Ivanisevic, B Becker, S Edberg, M Chang, A Agassi, T Muster, S Sanchez, S Bruguera, C Chang, B Becker, V Ivanisevic, A Agassi, S Berasategui.

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MOTOR RACING 40

SENNA STILL CASTING
HIS SHADOW
OVER FORMULA ONE

SPORT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15 1994

CRICKET 42

TORTURED GATTING
STRUGGLING TO
FIND HIS TOUCH

Essex and Lancashire deny claim of match-fixing



Fairbrother defended action

BY SIMON WILDE

ESSEX and Lancashire county cricket clubs yesterday moved to deny allegations of corruption that did Bruce Grobbelaar last week and certainly with a greater recollection of the affairs than certain patrons of the Paris Ritz. The clubs have pledged themselves to investigate the allegations of match-fixing made in the *Sunday Mirror* and that is what they spent the day doing.

The testimony of all the players involved in the county championship match at Old Trafford in August 1991, and the Sunday league fixture accompanying it,

was sought, and proved more difficult in some cases than others.

Several of the Essex players, for instance, are in remote spots. John Stephenson is coaching in Argentina and Derek Pringle, who led the team in the Sunday league match, is on holiday in the Sahara, from where he will shortly join up with another member of the team, Mike Garnham, who is leading a party of tourists across Africa. "If Derek passes a phone box, I would be very grateful if he could give me a call," Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary, said yesterday.

Neil Foster, who is accused by Don Topley, another Essex player, of being at the centre of a plan to

lose the Sunday league match in exchange for a generous run-chase in the championship game, was, however, available for comment.

Foster, acting Essex captain in the championship match in question, issued a detailed rebuttal of the allegation of match-fixing.

"I strongly deny any such action," he said. "During my career I was always aware of the traditions of cricket and any such thoughts would have been completely contrary to my feelings for the game."

"I do not hold memories of all the games in my mind but upon looking up the [championship] match details I remember some aspects of it quite clearly. I notice

that I took a career-best eight for 99, which should have etched the match in my mind."

"It also reminds me that the pitch had a little in it for the seamers but was also showing signs of wear, which could be used by the spin bowlers."

"These factors, plus the fact that Essex were without Graham Gooch and Paul Prichard and that Salim Malik was injured in the first innings meant that a declaration leaving us to score 270 runs in 58 overs [actually 67 overs] was not overly-generous."

"Nick Knight, who scored a century, I remember received a blow on the head and had Salim

Malik been dismissed early, Lancashire could have won."

Lancashire tracked down Neil Fairbrother, who captained the side against Essex, in Port Elizabeth, where he was playing for Transvaal. Fairbrother issued a detailed communiqué of his own, apparently without recourse to Wisden. He defended his "generous" declaration.

"This particular match was interrupted by rain," he said. "The only way I could achieve a win was by declaration and to set Essex a target giving ourselves the maximum time to bowl them out."

"I actually recall the fact that I felt we could win because their side

did not include either Gooch or Prichard and Salim Malik had retired hurt in the first innings. There was no doubt in my mind that we could win if we could pick up a few early wickets."

Essex won by eight wickets, with three balls to spare and went on to win the championship. Lancashire won the Sunday league match but missed out on the league title.

Foster and Essex are looking into the possibilities of legal action. Despite the absence of witnesses, the club plans to issue details of its investigation tomorrow.

Diary, page 42
Gatting's torment, page 42

Hanley restores Edwards to leading role

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SHAUN Edwards, the Wigan scrum half, was yesterday restored to the Great Britain captaincy for the deciding John Smith's rugby league international against Australia, which will be played at Elland Road, Leeds, on Saturday.

Under the gaze of the spotlight yesterday, Edwards, so nearly the forgotten man of the series, maintained his poker-faced expression. Pleased at being back, there was a job to be done. "It's the biggest pressure match I will ever have played in," he said. "It is a decider for the Ashes, which is the pinnacle in rugby league. Every player will be feeling it."

After his shameful walk from the pitch after being sent off at Wembley and another lonesome stroll to his seat at Old Trafford two weeks later, it might have looked as if he had settled for the role of bystander. There are, however, few more fierce natural competitors, and this trait was among the more generous explanations for his reckless act in the first international.

With the unhappy distinction of being the first British captain to be sent off, a three-match ban was probably the least Edwards could have expected. He has served his punishment now, but is back because Bobby Goulding failed to pick up at Old

Trafford where he left off so outstandingly at Wembley in assuming Edwards's role at scrum half.

The intentions of Edwards towards Bradley Clyde, the Australia second-row forward, have been the subject of incessant analysis. There are those who would have punished him much more severely for his stiff-arm tackle. The stigma of his dismissal has not left him, nor will it, but there is no reason not to believe his insistence that the tackle was

SQUAD

BACKS: O Connolly (Wigan), J Davies (Warrington), S Edwards (Wigan, captain), B Goulding (St Helens), A Hurley (St Helens), P Newlove (Bradford), M O'Leary (Wigan), D Powell (Sheff Wed), J Robinson (Wigan), O Schofield (Leeds), O Steadman (Castleford)

FORWARDS: O Beha (Wigan), M Cassidy (Wigan), P Clarke (Wigan), A Farrell (Wigan), K Harrison (Bradford), L Jackson (Sheff Wed), C Joynt (St Helens), B McDermott (Wigan), S Nickles (St Helens), K Skerrett (Wigan)

both unintentional and a reflex action.

Ellery Hanley, the Great Britain coach, like Edwards, had nothing more to add on the subject. "The game has gone at Wembley," Hanley said. "It's gone at Old Trafford. Elland Road is all that counts. History doesn't matter."

Hanley's recall of Edwards was the least surprising choice in a 21-strong squad high on predictability and low on ap-

parent risk. The only new face is Sonny Nickle, and hardly a fresh one at that. The St Helens forward was in the original squad for the series before a suspension. So where is the gamble Hanley must, surely, now take?

The most hazardous wild card would be to play himself, a consideration that went through Hanley's mind, and might do so again before the final selection on Thursday. "I did give some thought to the subject," he conceded. "But I decided against it because I still think that we have enough quality players available."

His squad amounts to a show of faith and crossing of fingers that there will be no repeat of the defensive collapse in the 38-8 defeat at Old Trafford. "There were areas we didn't look good and need to improve on drastically," he said. "We let ourselves down. Players didn't play to their full potential. I'm quite sure they can't play as badly as that again. We are all professional players who have been beaten before and we know just exactly what we have to do to beat Australia." There were enough "adequate" players around, yet not sufficient, it seems, for the coach to consider wholesale change.

With Jonathan Davies and Paul Newlove, whose respective shoulder injuries are being given a recovery time limit of 48 hours, uncertain starters and Kelvin Skerrett also doubtful because of a thumb injury, more drastic change could yet be imposed on Hanley.

Davies, more encouragingly, underwent his first contact work following the injury at Wembley in training yesterday at Headingley. "Structurally the shoulder should be sound after a month. There is only a little bit of pain now, and if it doesn't get any worse I hope it will be fine," he said.

Although adamant that no injuries will be carried into the game, it would be a risk of Hanley to fail to include Davies provided he is feeling confident. With Goulding not starting, Davies is the one recognised goalkicker left in the squad, with due respect to Andrew Farrell.

Youthful ambition, page 42

Mentor to javelin throwers named coach of year



John Trower, who advises the European and Commonwealth javelin champion, Steve Backley, was named coach of the year yesterday. A council leisure manager from Newport, Shropshire, he also coaches Britain's No 2 javelin thrower, Michael Smith. Photograph: Robin Mayes

Wilkins ready to move up

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RAY Wilkins is about to become the latest to join football's managerial merry-go-round, but with whom remains open to question after Aston Villa and Queens Park Rangers spent yesterday struggling to secure his services.

Both clubs gave been given permission to talk to the 38-year-old Crystal Palace player, but Rangers appear to have the edge, having already spoken to Wilkins yesterday.

"I heard of Villa's interest only last night," Wilkins said. "I've had a discussion with Queens Park Rangers, but that's as far as it's gone. It's

now at chairman level." Palace want compensation for losing Wilkins, a former England international, who is registered with them as a player.

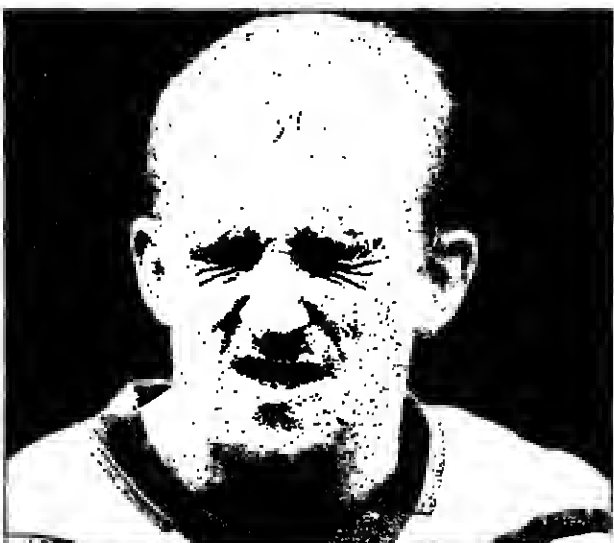
Villa dismissed Ron Atkinson as their manager last week, while Queens Park Rangers lost the services of Gerry Francis, who resigned at Loftus Road after a dispute with the club's directors.

Wilkins is a former Queens Park Rangers player, leaving Loftus Road only last season, and has also served spells at Chelsea, Manchester United, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Ger-

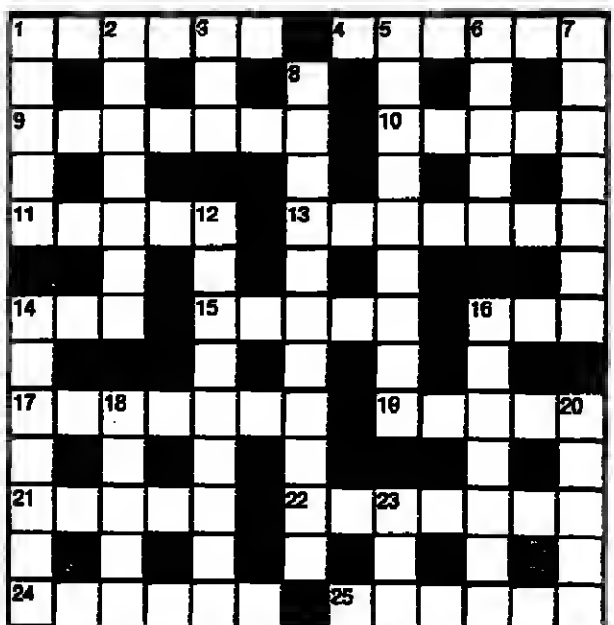
main and Rangers in Scotland. However, he is not the only favoured candidate at Villa Park, with Graeme Souness, formerly of Rangers and Liverpool, also on the shortlist.

The precarious nature of the job, however, was reinforced last night when Bristol City, the Bodsleigh Insurance League first division club, announced the dismissal of Russell Osman as their manager.

EA to charge Grobbelaar, page 1
Nigeria's polish, page 39



Edwards, sent off in the first international at Wembley, returns to face Australia at Elland Road on Saturday



RECENT TITLES FROM TIMES BOOKS (Reduced postage until Dec 31)
The Times Guides: International Finance £9.49, Japan £9.49, the Middle East £9.49, the Nations of the World NEW £9.49, the Peoples of Europe £9.49, Good University Guide 1994-5 £9.49, English Style and Usage £9.49, The Times Illustrated World History £15.49, The Times Maps: The World (Wall Map) Political, 3 x 32" £14.49 (folded Political 4 x 26" £5.49), Ireland £2.2 x 29" £3.49, British Isles NEW £2.2 x 31" £3.49, The Times Night Sky 1994 & NEW 1995 £4 each. Prices include P&P (UK). Cheques payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 319

ACROSS

- 1 Sturdy (6)
- 4 Casually acquire (4,2): small truck (4,2)
- 9 Queue (7)
- 10 Jumped (5)
- 11 Hanker (5)
- 13 Skippy protection of modesty (3,4)
- 14 Spelling composition (5)
- 15 For a particular purpose (2,3)
- 16 Old measure, about 45in. (3)
- 17 Rope-winding gear (7)
- 19 Professional stand-in (5)
- 21 Royal dog (5)
- 22 Had benefit of; experienced (7)
- 24 Capacity for (hard) work (6)

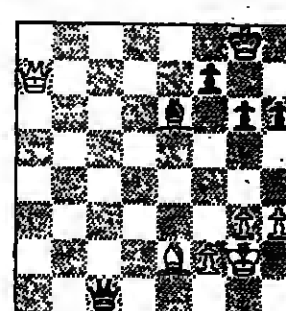
SOLUTION TO NO 318

- ACROSS: 1 Aramis 2 Balm 3 Flair 9 Unerring 10 Spiteful 11 Dire 12 Fecund 14 Humbug 16 Chug 18 Hypnotic 20 Mandarin 21 Took 22 Edgy 23 Hoping
- DOWN: 2 Relapse 3 Motel 4 Stuffed shirt 5 Boredom 6 Lunar 7 Fed the pinch 13 Ungodly 15 Unicorn 17 Hoard 19 On top

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Van Wely - Sokolov, Germany 1994. This position appears completely drawn, but Black found a clever way to maintain winning chances. What did he play?



Solution, page 42
Raymond Keene, page 9

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AMPELOPSIS

- a. A pseud vine
- b. A rhetorical pause
- c. Blurred vision

EUSTASY

- a. Happiness
- b. A rock plant
- c. Change of sea-level

GARBANZO

- a. Boasting
 - b. Musical direction "with emphasis"
 - c. The chick-pea
- CAPPA
- a. Black coffee
 - b. A cloak
 - c. The Corsican Mafia

Answers on page 42